MLA Citations for Works Cited Pages

by Jill Sebacher

These examples are based on the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*; these rules went into effect in April of 2009.

This list will grow, and the website will be subsequently updated, so keep checking back for expanded editions of this document. Happy citing😊

Print Sources

**An Entire Book**  This entry will also help you with internal citations and modifying quotes using brackets.

**A Book with Two Authors**  This entry also includes information on how to note subsequent editions of books along with an internal citation example.

**An Essay from an Anthology** with internal citation example.

**A Poem from an Anthology**  This entry demonstrates the proper way to signify line breaks (/) and stanza breaks (//) when quoting from a poem and includes an internal citation example.

**A Short Story from an Anthology**  This entry includes an internal citation example that illustrates the method of quoting lines in which one finds quotation marks used.

**Introductions and Prefaces** with internal citation example.

**A Work of Visual Art**  This is a triple entry that first shows the correct citation for referring to a work seen in a museum, then illustrates the proper method for citing a work seen in the viewing of a private collection, and finally demonstrates the correct citation for a reprinted version of an art work as seen in a book.
An Entire Book

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Author’s name in the following format: last name, first name
The book title, which must appear in italics
The city of publication
The book’s publisher
The year that the book was published
The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this book:

“The poetic image is not a static thing. It lives in time, as does the poem. […] And if [the image’s] first word begins the poem, it has the role of putting into motion all the course of images and music of the entire work […]” (Rukeyser 33).

What is this information? What are those weird bracketed things?

“The poetic image is not a static thing. It lives in time, as does the poem. […] And if [the image’s] first word begins the poem, it has the role of putting into motion all the course of images and music of the entire work […]” (Rukeyser 33).

The ellipsis mark in brackets here lets the reader of my paper know that I skipped one or more sentences that appeared after “It lives in time, as does the poem.”
In the original sentence “its” appeared here, and I changed this word to “the image’s” to make my sentence’s meaning more clear. The brackets around this phrase let the reader of my paper know that I changed the phrasing of the sentence. You can also add words/phrases to a quoted sentence by using this technique.

The ellipsis mark in brackets here lets the reader of my paper know that the sentence continued on after the word “work” but that I didn’t include the rest of the sentence in my quote.

This is the book author’s last name.

This is the page of the book on which I found this quote.
A Book with Two Authors

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?

Authors’ names in the following format: last name of first author listed on title page followed by that author’s first name; the first name followed by last name for the second author listed on the book’s title page

The book title, which must appear in italics


The city of publication

The book’s publisher

The year that the book was published

The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this book:

“Though the writing process itself can begin anywhere, we are beginning the discussion of fiction with plot because plot is the vehicle that carries all the other elements. Like a sentence and love, you should know a plot when you see one—though you may be deceived” (Jason and Lefcowitz 174).

Notice that you must include both of the authors’ last names—Jason and Lefcowitz for the above book—in the internal citation for a book with two authors; also cite the page number on which the quote can be found, 174 in this case.
An Essay from an Anthology

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:

Sacks, Oliver. “On the Level.” *Science and Technology Today: Readings for Writers.*


What is this information?


Author’s name in the following format: last name, first name
The essay title, which must appear within quotation marks
The anthology title, which must appear in italics
The anthology’s editor
The city of publication
The book’s publisher
The year that the book was published
The page numbers on which the essay appears in the anthology
The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this essay:

“We have five senses in which we glory and which we recognize and celebrate, senses that constitute the sensible world for us. But there are other senses—secret senses, sixth senses, if you will—equally vital, but unrecognized, and unlauded” (Sacks 474).
A Poem from an Anthology

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Author’s name in the following format: last name, first name
The poem title, which must appear within quotation marks
The anthology title, which must appear in italics
The anthology’s editor
The city of publication
The book’s publisher
The year that the book was published
The page number on which the poem appears in the anthology
The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this poem:

“The art of losing isn’t hard to master; / so many things seem filled with the intent / to be lost that their loss is no disaster. // Lose something every day. Accept the fluster / of lost door keys, the hour badly spent” (Bishop 1-5).

Notice that the internal citation does not use the page number on which the poem appears in the book (39) for pagination information. When citing lines of a poem, one must note the line numbers (1-5) which are being quoted instead of the page.
A Short Story from an Anthology

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Author’s name in the following format: last name, first name middle name
The short story title, which must appear within quotation marks
The anthology title, which must appear in italics
The anthology’s editor
The city of publication
The book’s publisher
The year that the book was published
The page numbers on which the short story appears in the anthology
The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this short story:

“Somehow, before sleep came, she found herself saying aloud: ‘Oh well, whatever goes over the Devil’s back, is got to come under his belly. Sometime or ruther, Sykes, like everybody else, is gointer reap his sowing.’ After that she was able to build a spiritual earthworks against her husband” (Hurston 199).

In the book these lines appear as follows:
Somehow, before sleep came, she found herself saying aloud: “Oh well, whatever
goes over the Devil’s back, is got to come under his belly. Sometime or ruther, Sykes,
like everybody else, is gointer reap his sowing.” After that she was able to build a
spiritual earthworks against her husband.

When one encounters quotation marks already used in lines that are to be quoted, as
above, the double marks are changed to single ones to show the quote within a quote,
as below.

“Somehow, before sleep came, she found herself saying aloud: ‘Oh well, whatever
goes over the Devil’s back, is got to come under his belly. Sometime or ruther, Sykes,
like everybody else, is gointer reap his sowing.’ After that she was able to build a
spiritual earthworks against her husband” (Hurston 199).
Introductions and Prefaces

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Introduction author’s name in the following format: last name, first name
Part of book cited
The book’s title, which must appear in italics
The book’s author
The city of publication
The book’s publisher
The year that the book was published
The page numbers (often appearing as Roman numerals) on which the introduction appears in the book
The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this introduction:

“The writing in *A Backward Glance* is as firm and crisp and lucid as in the best of her novels. The picture of the New York of her childhood, that quaint, mild, oddly pure brownstone world that has disappeared as completely ‘as Atlantis or the lowest layer
of Schliemann’s ‘Troy’ is quite as vivid as the one in *The Age of Innocence*” (Auchincloss x).
A Work of Visual Art

1. The original work of art seen in a museum

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Artist’s name in the following format: last name, first name middle name
The art work’s title, which must appear in italics
The year that the art work was completed
The medium of composition
Museum in which the visual art appears
The city in which the museum is located

2. The original work of art seen in a viewing of a private collection

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


What is this information?


Artist’s name in the following format: last name, first name middle name
The art work’s title, which must appear in italics
The year that the art work was completed
The medium of composition
“Collection of” followed by the name of the collection’s owner. If no name is given, put the phrase, Private collection, here.

3. A reprinted version of the art work viewed in a book.

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:


**What is this information?**

- **Artist’s name in the following format:** last name, first name middle name
- **The art work’s title, which must appear in italics**
- **The year that the art work was completed**
- **The medium of composition**
- **Museum in which the visual art appears**
- **The city in which the museum is located**
- **The title of the book, which must appear in italics, in which the art work is reproduced**
- **The book’s author (or editor—if an editor, use Ed. instead of By)**
- **The city of publication**
- **The book’s publisher**
- **The year that the book was published**
- **The illustration number of the reproduced art work found in the book**
- **The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)**