

MLA Research Workshop

Research Process:

Begin with a question or issue you would like to or are obliged to research.

Do some pre-reading.

Develop a preliminary thesis.

Develop a preliminary outline.

Collect some reliable sources.

Read and take or collect notes from these sources (You might create files based on your preliminary outline. Remember to make clear your sources in your notes).

Review your notes.

Do additional research if necessary.

Revise your thesis as necessary.

Revise and expand your outline as needed.

Complete your Works Cited page.

Write the paper, including references to your sources.

MLA Guidelines Within the Essay // In-text/Parentetical Citations:

- Use signal tags for your source by referencing authors and possibly sources. For example, say something like this for a quote:

According to author Stephe Smythe, what John F. Kennedy said was “Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country” (73).

- After the first reference to an author, you may use just their last name, as in

Smythe suggests Kennedy was the most charismatic leader of the second half of the Twentieth Century (75).

- Within the essay, at the end of a sentence with information taken from a source, whether a quote, a paraphrase, a statistic, a reference to a chart/graph/etc., or a unique concept or idea, include the author and page where found (Smythe 49).
- With websites, of course, you would usually not have a page number (Mitchell). Occasionally, or often with websites, you will not have an individual author, so you may have to reference a corporate/organizational author (Exxon) or (American Wildlife Association) or the first part of the title of the article or website name (“Misuse of Funds”) or (*National Parks*).

MLA Guidelines for the Works Cited Page:

- You will usually need a separate page titled:

Works Cited

- On the Works Cited page, you will list your sources in alphabetical order, giving the appropriate information required for each depending on what type of source each is. The information required for each can be found in various sources mentioned above.
- You should note that entries on the Works Cited page use a hanging indentation; the first line of the entry comes flush with the left margin while the remaining lines of the entry are indented half an inch (one tab).

Research Support:

- *The Little Seagull*
- Library:
 - Library website: <http://valenciacollege.edu/library/>, has a section for referencing MLA with an explanation and example for many types of electronic and print sources as well as a sample paper which has a Works Cited page as the last page of the paper. The website also addresses APA and Chicago Style formats, should you need to follow one of those.
 - Reference librarians on 2nd floor (have the marvelous superpower of understanding how to find source material in the library, including how to use databases. They can help you learn how to do these things as well)
 - Library databases
 - 1st floor has people who are very good with Microsoft Word and computers
- *Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)* <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> / The website has a search box where you can key in terms about which you need more information.
- Google Scholar
- *MLA Handbook*
- Microsoft Word – MLA research paper template
- Writing Center – Writing tutors, Bldg. 5, Rm. 155, access schedule through Atlas/Course, phone 407-582-5454 (We're here to help!)
- Smart Thinking – accessed through your Atlas