MLA format uses the name-page method. Using this method, you provide a short parenthetical reference in the text, and then you include that source (and all your sources) in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

The legend at the bottom of the page will help you figure out what kind of information should be included, and the order in which it should appear in your citations. This list is not comprehensive but does contain the most commonly occurring kinds of citations used in university. For more help, consult a Student Success writing tutor.

**In-Text Citations:**

Whenever you quote directly from, or refer to, a source in your work, you need to use an in-text citation. In-text citations consist of the author’s last name followed by a page number that indicates where the material has been quoted from:

> “The reaction in China to the end of World War I has been described by one historian as ‘popular rejoicing’” (MacMillan 332).

When the author’s name is included in the text, you don’t need to repeat that in the parenthetical citation:

> The reaction in China to the end of World War I has been described by historian Margaret MacMillan as “popular rejoicing” – particularly among young people, who had an “uncritical admiration for Western democracy, Western liberal ideals, and Western learning” (332).

These apply to both print and electronic sources of all types.

**Kinds of In-Text Citations:**

**A Work by One or Two Authors (or Editors):**

Include the last names of up to two authors or editors, and the page reference, without punctuation in between.


**Legend:** Author Title Publication Information Electronic Source
In the book’s introduction, the writers note that “newcomers to the prairies were beset by a seemingly endless series of unforgiving challenges” (Calder and Wardhaugh 11).

**A Work by Three or More Authors (or Editors):**

Include the last name of the first author or editor followed by “et al” (“and others”) and the page reference:

Messenger et al. advise readers that effective research requires more effort than simply searching for resources on the internet (383).

**A Work by a Government Agency or a Corporate Author:**

In place of the author’s last name (because it might not be available), use either the name of the group acting as the author or a shortened version of a title.

Photos depicting life “at the front” often showed soldiers in the trenches performing domestic activities such as reading a newspaper, shaving, or sharing a meal (Canadian Field Comforts Commission 81-84).

**A Work by an Anonymous Author:**

In the situation where the author is anonymous, use a short version of the title in place of the author’s last name:

The most expensive white diamond ever bought at auction is “the 118.28-carat oval-cut gem that sold...for 30.6 million [USD] in 2013” (“Colors” 34)

In this example, “Colors” is short for “The Colors of Money,” the title of an unsigned magazine article.

**An Online Document with No Page Numbers**

If you are citing an online document and it does not have any numbered divisions (no page numbers, no paragraph numbers), include only the author’s last name in the citation.

The National Ballet of Canada’s recent production of Swan Lake was hailed as a “gorgeous, sumptuous feast for the eyes and ears” (Leung).

If the document has paragraph numbers or section numbers, indicate that (Wallenstein, par. 3).
Building A Works Cited List

A list of works cited appears at the end of your essay and includes the full publication information for all the works you have referenced.

Entries should be in alphabetical order according to author last name. When you have more than one entry by an author, list them in alphabetical order by title, and replace the author’s name with three hyphens (---) in all entries after the first:


The second and any subsequent lines of an entry need to be indented one inch – this is called a hanging indent.

**Books with One Author:**

Follow this Format:
Author’s last name, first name. *Title*. Name of Publisher, Year of Publication.


**Books with Two Authors (or Editors):**

Use the same as above, but use the second author’s first name, then last name.


**A Book by Three or More Authors (or Editors)**

When you have 3 or more authors, list only the first, followed by “et al.” (Latin for “and others”).


Legend: Author  Title  Publication Information  Electronic Source
A Book Accessed Online:

If you access a book online, follow the standard guidelines for citing the book, but include the DOI or URL that will direct the reader to the book. If you accessed the book through a library database, include the name of a database.


In this case, the book was made available through the Early Canadiana Online database, but other databases might be Project Muse, ProQuest, PubMed and so on.

A Work from an Anthology of Collected Works

If your source is an anthology with works by several different authors, you must cite each work individually by the author’s last name.


A Book Chapter in an Edited Book

Begin your entry with the name of the author of the chapter, article, or entry. The title of the chapter, article, or entry should be in quotation marks.


A Journal Article

Journal Articles require a bit more information than books. Just using the title of the article (in quotation marks) isn’t enough. You also need to include the title of the Journal (in italics).

In this case, the title of the journal article is in quotation marks, and the title of the journal is in italics. Be sure to include the volume and issue numbers. If they are available. In this example, the article is in volume 62, issue 1, which came out in 2016.

**An Online Journal Article**

A journal article that you retrieve online is cited in the same way, but you need to include the database where you found the article, and the DOI (digital object identifier) associated with it.

A database is where the journal is held electronically. You will normally have accessed a database through a link provided through the library, so ask a library staff member for help determining the database you used.

If there is no DOI associated with the article, use the URL.


In this case, this article published in *English Studies in Canada* was accessed through the Project Muse database, which has given the article this unique DOI.

**Material from a Website**

Try to include as much of the material as you can find in your citation.

Examples:


If the author or creator is not named, or if the author is a group whose name is also the name of the website, begin with the title.

Sample MLA Works Cited List


*An Inconvenient Truth*. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performances by Al Gore and Billy West, Paramount, 2006.


Formatting: A Sample First Page

Work should be double spaced and written in 12-point font. Name and course information appears at the top left, page numbers and your last name at the top right.

Beth Catlin
Professor Elaine Bassett
English 106
3 August 2009

Andrew Carnegie: The Father of Middle-Class America

For decades Americans couldn’t help but love the red-headed, fun-loving Little Orphan Annie. The image of the little girl moving so quickly from poverty to wealth provided hope for the poor in the 1930s, and her story continues to be a dream of what the future just might hold. The rags-to-riches phenomenon is the heart of the American Dream. And few other people have embodied this phenomenon as much as Andrew Carnegie did in the late 1800s and early 1900s. His example and industry caused him to become the father of middle-class America.

Andrew Carnegie can be looked to as an ideal example of a poor immigrant making his way up to become leader of the capitalist world. Carnegie was born into a poor working-class family in Scotland. According to the PBS documentary “The Richest Man in the World: Andrew Carnegie,” the Industrial Revolution was difficult on Carnegie’s father, causing him to lose his weaving business. The Carnegie family was much opposed to the idea of a privileged class, who gained their wealth simply by inheritance (“Richest”). This type of upbringing played a large factor in Andrew Carnegie’s destiny. In order to appease his mother’s desire for material benefits, and perhaps in an effort to heal his father’s wounds, Carnegie rejected poverty and cleaved to prosperity.

Carnegie’s character was ideal for gaining wealth. His mother taught him to “look after the pennies, and the pounds will take care of themselves;” he later turned this proverb into “watch the costs, and the profits take care of themselves” (“Richest”). Such thrift was integral to his future success. He also believed that “all is well since all goes better” (“Richest”). His theory


Legend: Author  Title  Publication Information  Electronic Source