

# MLA GUIDE

CITATIONS & WORKS CITED ENTRIES

CCS English  
Department

This guide is based on the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook* (2016).

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

MLA requires that an in-text (or parenthetical) citation accompany each quotation or paraphrase in your paper. An in-text citation is set off with parentheses and embedded in the text of your paper instead of as a footnote or endnote.

**For example:** Franz Kafka experienced a whole series of contradictory elements in his life, including “the problematic but ultimately productive tension...between the office and his writing” (Adler 55).

If you include the author’s name in the context of your sentence, omit it from the citation.

**For example:** According to Jeremy Adler, Professor of German Literature at King’s College London, Franz Kafka experienced a whole series of contradictory elements in his life, including “the problematic but ultimately productive tension...between the office and his writing” (55).

If an author’s name is not available, use the title of the source: (“German Romantic Poets” 78)

## WORK OF NONFICTION

Include the author’s last name and the page number(s): (Heylin 89)

## AN ESSAY

Include the author’s last name and the page number(s): (Eco 64)

## PORTION OF A WEBSITE

Include the author’s last name (if available): (Hollander)

If the author’s name is not provided, use the title of the article/section.

## JOURNAL ARTICLE (From a Database)

Include the author’s last name: (Posner)

## THE BIBLE

Include the abbreviated name of the book, as well as the chapter and verse numbers: (Gen. 1.1-2)

## **NOVEL**

Include the author's last name and the page number(s): (O'Connor 23)

## **SHORT STORY**

Include the author's last name and the page number(s): (Mann 17)

## **POETRY**

Include the title and the line number(s): ("Fern Hill" 26)

Use the word *line* or *lines* in the first citation referring to the poem. Subsequent citations referring to the same poem do not need to include the word *line* or *lines*.

**For example:** ("The Thin People" lines 3-4) then ("The Thin People" 7-9)

If the poem's lines are unnumbered, include the page number.

When quoting from a long poetic work (such as an epic poem) that includes division numbers (e.g. cantos), use the division number and line numbers: (*Odyssey* 2.37)

## **DRAMATIC WORK**

If the source is a dramatic work that is written in prose, include the author's name and the page number, followed by a semicolon and division numbers (e.g. act, scene): (Beckett 13; act 1)

If the source is a dramatic work written in verse (e.g. Shakespeare's plays), include the title, division numbers (act, scene), and line numbers: (*Macbeth* 1.2.3-4)

## **WORKS CITED ENTRIES**

MLA requires that documentation for each source used in your paper be included on the works cited page.

### **WORK OF NONFICTION**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of book, other contributors, publisher, and the publication date:

Heylin, Clinton. *So Long as Men Can Breathe: The Untold Story of Shakespeare's Sonnets*. De Capo Press, 2009.

### **AN ESSAY**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of essay, title of book, other contributors, publisher, publication date, and the total span of page numbers:

Eco, Umberto. "The Return to the Middle Ages." *Travels in Hyperreality*, translated by William Weaver, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1986, pp. 59-85.

### **PORTION OF A WEBSITE**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of article/section, title of website, publisher, publication date, and the URL:

Hollander, Robert. "Allegory in Dante." *Princeton Dante Project*, Princeton University, 2000, [etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/pdp/allegory.html](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/pdp/allegory.html).

### **JOURNAL ARTICLE (From a Database)**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of article, title of journal, volume and issue numbers, publication date, total span of page numbers, title of database, and the URL:

Posner, Michael. "Rethinking Shakespeare." *Queen's Quarterly*, vol. 115, no. 2, 2016, pp. 246-250. *Literature Resource Center*, [go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE).

### **THE BIBLE**

Include the title, other contributors, version, publisher, and publication date:

*The Reformation Study Bible*. Edited by R.C. Sproul, English Standard Version, Reformation Trust, 2015.

### **NOVEL**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of book, other contributors, publisher, and publication date:

O'Connor, Flannery. *The Violent Bear It Away*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2007.

### **SHORT STORY**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of short story, title of book, other contributors, publisher, publication date, and total span of page numbers:

Mann, Thomas. "Death in Venice." *Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories*, translated by H.T. Lowe-Porter, Vintage International, 1989, pp. 3-73.

### **SHORT POEM**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of poem, title of book, other contributors, publisher, publication date, and total span of page numbers:

Thomas, Dylan. "Fern Hill." *The Collected Poems of Dylan Thomas: 1934-1952*, New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1971, pp. 178-180.

### **EPIC POEM**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of book, other contributors, publisher, and publication date:

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fitzgerald, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998.

### **POEM FROM WEBSITE**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of poem, title of website, other contributors, publisher, publication date, and the URL:

Thomas, Dylan. "Fern Hill." *Poets*, Academy of American Poets, 2017, [poets.org/poetsorg/poem/fern-hill](https://poets.org/poetsorg/poem/fern-hill).

### **DRAMATIC WORK**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of play, other contributors, publisher, and publication date:

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Edited by Kenneth Muir, Methuen & CO, 1975.

### **DRAMATIC WORK FROM WEBSITE**

Include the author's last name, first name, title of play, title of website, other contributors, publisher, publication date, and the URL:

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. *Folger Digital Texts*, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2017, [folgerdigitaltexts.org/?chapter=5&play=Mac&loc=p7](https://folgerdigitaltexts.org/?chapter=5&play=Mac&loc=p7).