

WORKING WITH QUOTATIONS 2A: CITATION (MLA)

What is a citation for?

Citation allows you to place your ideas in conversation with the work of other scholars. It shows that the sources used to construct your argument have been employed fairly and makes the significance of your argument clear to your audience by demonstrating how it contributes to the existing field of research.

What must I cite?

a) sources you quote, b) sources you summarize, and c) sources that have influenced the formulation of your ideas. Source types vary: print books, online articles, websites, audio, visual, generative AI, etc.

A complete citation includes two parts

- 1) in-text citation: a brief note in the body of the text directly after a quote or idea used
- 2) Works Cited list: a more thorough presentation of sources usually at the end of the paper

CITING IN MLA (9TH EDITION)

In-text citations

MLA format uses the author-page method to refer to a corresponding entry in the works cited list: first word of the source list citation (typically the author) and page number(s).

As one scholar has argued, “Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture” (Fiedler 272).

If the source’s name appears in the body text that precedes the quotation, you only need to include the page number in the parentheses:

As Leslie Fiedler has argued, “Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture” (272).

If the paper includes multiple sources by the same author, specify which one (may be shortened)

As one scholar has argued, “Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture” (Fiedler, *Love and Death* 272).

If the source has no known author or page numbers, use the first 1-3 main words of the title, as it appears in the works cited list. Example for CT DEEP’s webpage “History of Our State Parks”:

In response to growing industrialization of the early twentieth century, Connecticut created the Park Commission to protect public access to natural spaces (“History”).

Works Cited list entries

The MLA citation format follows a general structure. Each source may require all, or just a part of the elements. Include what is available, and omit what is missing.

Element	Example
1. Author	Carver, Raymond.
2. Title of Source	“Cathedral.”
3. Title of Container (larger work, anthology/journal etc.)	<i>The Norton Anthology of American Literature</i> ,
4. Other Contributors	edited by Robert S. Levine, et al.,
5. Version	10 th edition,
6. Number	vol. E,
7. Publisher	W.W. Norton & Company,
8. Publication Date	2022,

9. Location

pp. 739-749.

10. Date of access (for online resources)

[not applicable here.]

Works cited are listed in alphabetical order at the end of your paper and formatted with a half-inch hanging indent (i.e. every line after the first is indented).

Book

Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. (Translated by / Edited by Name), Publisher, Publication Date.

Auerbach, Nina. *Our Vampires, Ourselves*. University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Li, Juan. *Distant Sunflower Fields*. Translated by Christopher Payne, ACA Publishing, 2021.

Sturken, Marita, and Lisa Cartwright. *Practices Of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Book Article / Essay in Collection

Last name, First name. "Title of Work." *Book Title*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page Range of Work.

Haraway, Donna. "A Cyborg Manifesto." *Cultural Theory: An Anthology*, edited by Imre Szeman and Timothy Kaposy, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, pp. 454–71.

Journal Article

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, Page Range.

Krostenko, Brian A. "Arbitria Vrbanitatis: Language, Style, and Characterization in Catullus cc. 39 and 37." *Classical Antiquity*, vol. 20, no. 2, 2001, pp. 239–72.

Websites and Social Media

Author (if known). "Title of Work." *Title of Website*. Sponsor/Publisher of Site, date of creation (if known), URL/DOI. Date of Access (if applicable).

Sam, Sodomsky. "Inside John Darnielle's Boiling Brain." *Pitchfork*, Condé Nast, 30 Oct. 2023, pitchfork.com/features/interview/inside-john-danielles-boiling-brain/. Accessed 15 June 2025.

Yale University Library [@yalelibrary]. "Yale Library announces new literary prize for American poetry." X, 22 Dec. 2024, 11:15 a.m., <https://x.com/yalelibrary/status/1870865663201534029>.

Film, Streamed Film, Video

Blade Runner, The Director's Cut. Directed by Ridley Scott, Warner Bros., 1997.

"The First Frontier." *Life on Our Planet*. Executive produced by Steven Spielberg, episode 2, Silverback Films, 2020. *Netflix*.

Wurtz, Bill. "history of the world." *Youtube*, uploaded by bill wurtz, 1 Sep. 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9xQTEHebA>. Accessed 15 June 2025.

Citation Managers

A citation management tool is a software or web-based service that helps you organize, keep track of large amounts of sources, and makes it easier to create works cited lists. Common free citation managers include: Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote, and RefWorks. Yale University Library offers regular workshops on how to use a citation manager. For details, visit <https://guides.library.yale.edu/citationmanagement>.