There are two types of citations: **In-text (or parenthetical)** and **Bibliographic**

**In-text or parenthetical citations** provide brief information regarding a source and correspond to the full citation in the bibliographic list.

**Example of MLA in-text citation for a paraphrase:**
Hedges believes that resistance begins with the use of a ‘new’ language (70).

**Example of MLA in-text citation for a quotation:**
Resistance is “first about learning to speak differently and abandoning the vocabulary of the ‘rational’ technocrats who rule” (Hedges, 70).

**Bibliographic citations** provide all of the information belonging to the source and correspond with the in-text citation. In MLA the bibliographic list is titled **Works Cited**.

**Example of MLA Works Cited citation:**

When creating a citation for **Works Cited** list use all of the information available, such as:

Authors or editors. Titles and sub-titles. Editions. Publisher and publication information (volume, issue, dates and page numbers). Database or website titles. DOI (Digital object identifier) or URL.

**Example: Book source**

**Example: Article source**

**Example: Website sources**

A college research paper is the culmination of student work on any particular topic. Research papers can be informative, argumentative or persuasive and will always include sources used to formulate the student’s views.

The sources of information that one uses in a research paper must be given proper credit through the use of in-text and bibliographic citations. In-text citations are also referred to as parenthetical citations; these are the brief notation of a source within the body of work and should always correspond to the full citation that is listed in the bibliography. In MLA (Modern Language Association) the bibliographic list is titled \textit{Works Cited} while in APA (American Psychological Association) it is titled \textit{References}.

In the \textit{Bedford Guide for College Writers} the author says to cite sources “every time you quote, paraphrase, or sum up someone else’s ideas” (Kennedy, 707). A typical in-text citation in MLA format includes the author’s last name and the page number of the referenced work. The author’s full name, the title of the source and any other identifying information should be listed in the bibliographic list at the end of the paper.
Works Cited sources are listed in alphabetical order by author’s last name or the first citation element if there is no author.

MLA Works Cited Example

Works Cited


The title is centered on a new page. Do not bold, underline, or italicize title. Citations are double-spaced and use a hanging indent.


**Additional Notes**

Sources cited in the text must appear in the *Works Cited* list and vice versa.

DOI stands for *Digital Object Identifier* and is the most trustworthy method for identifying information from articles, reports, government information, etc. The DOI is preferred when citing sources, followed by a permalink/stable URL, then a typical URL.

Eliminate http:// and https:// of URLs – begin with www. Also do not use a shortened URL such as bit.ly.

The city of publication is no longer necessary and is not required by the *MLA Handbook*, 8th ed.

For page numbers use ‘p.’ for one page or ‘pp.’ for multiple pages.

When the publication date of an online source is available, use it; otherwise add the date the information was accessed.

The new MLA Handbook is more flexible than previous editions so, when in doubt, ask your professor for clarification regarding what is expected.

This handout provides examples of bibliographic citations. For more help with citations see the *MLA Handbook*, 8th ed., available at the Mt. SAC Library Information Desk, ask one of the librarians to assist you or visit Purdue University’s *Online Writing Lab* at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style