MLA Style Formatting and In-Text Citations
Based on the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook

What is MLA Style?

Modern Languages Association (MLA) Style is used for providing citations in academic writing. It includes citations within your writing as well as a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

Formatting your Paper

- Typed on standard 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Double spaced
- Size 12-point Times New Roman font or similar
- Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
- Indent first line of each paragraph one half inch
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks.

For the first page of your paper:

- Do not make a title page unless specified by your instructor
- In the upper left-hand corner list your first and last name, your instructor’s name, your course and the date. This should be four lines of text and double spaced.
- Center the title of your work below the first four lines
- The title should not be underlined, italicized or in all capital letters.
- Create a header in the upper right side of your paper that includes your last name followed by a space and page number.

In-text Citations

In text citations are included in your writing usually at the end of a sentence. Sometimes, they can appear within the body of your writing with a page number at the end of the sentence. They show where you got your information (book, journal or website, for example) and should match your Works Cited list at the end of your assignment.
The structure of an in-text citation is:

(Author’s Last Name Page(s) cited).

Example:

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Or

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

**Formatting Author Names for in-text citations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Type</th>
<th>Citation at the end of sentence (parenthetical)</th>
<th>Citation within your sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 author</td>
<td>(Anderson 57)</td>
<td>Anderson states … (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 authors</td>
<td>(Douglas and Jones 20)</td>
<td>Douglas and Jones suggest … (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more authors</td>
<td>(Roberts et al. 67)</td>
<td>Roberts et al. … (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>(World Health Organization 44)</td>
<td>World Health Organization reports that … (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No author</td>
<td>(Title of the work)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reminders**

For your in-text citations put the period after the parentheses for example: (Anderson 57).

There is no comma between the authors last name and the page number in the in-text citation.