

APSU Writing Center
MLA Style 9th Edition

Formatting

- **Margins:** 1 inch margins on all sides of the page.
- **Font:** Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- **Double spaced:** for the content of the paper.
- **Page numbers:** your last name followed by a space with a page number flush top right.
- **Paper Size:** 8.5 x 11-inch paper
- **Paragraphs:** Indent first line of each paragraph one half-inch from the left margin "Tab".

MLA Style Order

- MLA Header
- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion
- Works Cited

MLA Header

- **Upper left corner:**
 - Your full name
 - Instructor's name
 - Course
 - Date

MLA Title

- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
- Use quotation marks or italics when referring to other works in your title.
 - **Example:** *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play; Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"

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MLA Style 9th Edition - Headings

Sample MLA First Page

1-inch margins	Mr. Smiley Face	Student Name	Face 1	1-inch margins
	Dr. Allie Johnston	Instructor Name	Running Head: Last Name + Page #	
	ENGL 1010	Course		
	4 November 2026	Date	Double-spaced, Plain text, Title case	
	Paper Title	Free Online Resources from the APSU Writing Center		
1/2-inch indent	→ The Austin Peay State University (APSU) Writing Center offers a variety of free online resources to support student success in academic writing...			

Section Headings

- When dividing an essay into sections, include a number followed by a period, a space, and then the section title.
- Create headings and subheadings as needed, and remain consistent throughout your essay.
 - Heading Example:
 - Formatted, unnumbered:
 - **Level 1 Heading: bold, flush left**
 - *Level 2 Heading: italics, flush left*
 - **Level 3 Heading: centered, bold**
 - *Level 4 Heading: centered, italics*
 - Level 5 Heading: underlined, flush left

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MLA Style 9th Edition - Citations

In-text Citations

- Throughout your MLA essay, you must provide references for any material you quote, paraphrase, or summarize. This is done through in-text citations and the Works Cited page.

Author-Page Style Citations

- For the Author–Page Style, include the author’s last name and the page number in your citation.
- The author’s name can appear in the sentence or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase.
- Page number(s) should always appear in parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.
 - **Example:** Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
 - **Example:** Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Works Cited Page

- The Works Cited page appears on a **separate page** at the end of your essay. It provides full citations for all sources referenced in your text.
- Any source information included in the text must correspond exactly to the entry on the Works Cited page.
- **Title:** Work Cited or Works Cited (centered at the top of the page).
- **Spacing:** Double-space all entries.
- **Indentation:** Use a hanging indent by indenting the second and following lines of each citation by half an inch.

Work Cited

Garcia, Maria. "Understanding Social Media Trends." *Communication Studies Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2018, pp. 10-25. JSTOR, doi:10.5678/csqr.35.2.10.



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MLA Style 9th Edition - Citation Guide

Book by One Author

- **In Text:** (Author Last Name page number).
 - **Example:** (Kirsh).
- **Works Cited:** Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.
 - **Example:** Mantel, Hilary. *Wolf Hall*. Picador, 2010.

Book by Two Authors

- **In Text:** (Author 1's Last Name and Author 2's Last Name Page Number)
 - **Example:** (Garcia and Patel 72).
- **Works Cited:** Last Name, First Name of First Author, and First Name Last Name of Second Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Year.
 - **Example:** Garcia, Maria, and Sanjay Patel. *Economics: Principles and Applications*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2019.

Book by an Unknown Author

- **In Text:** (Title of Book Page Number).
 - **Example:** (Encyclopedia of World History 78).
- **Works Cited:** *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.
 - **Example:** *Encyclopedia of World History*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

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MLA Style 9th Edition - Citation Guide

Library Database Articles

- **In Text:** (Author's Last Name Page Number).
 - **Example:** (Garcia 22).
- **Works Cited:** Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article: Subtitle if Any." *Name of Journal*, Volume Number, Issue Number, Date of Publication, First Page Number-Last Page Number. Name of Database, DOI, Permalink or URL.
 - **Example:** Garcia, Maria. "Understanding Social Media Trends." *Communication Studies Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2018, pp. 10-25. JSTOR, doi:10.5678/csqr.35.2.10.

Websites

- **In Text:** (Author Last Name or Title of Website)
 - **Example:** (Mabillard)
- **Works Cited:** Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Website*, Name of Organization Affiliated with the Website, Date of copyright or date last modified/updated, URL. Accessed access date (optional).
 - **Example:** Mabillard, Amanda. *Shakespeare Online*, 29 Dec. 2011, www.shakespeare-online.com. Accessed 6 July 2016.

YouTube

- **In-text:** (Username or Title of the Video).
 - **Example:** (PBS Space Time).
- **Works Cited:** Username or Title of the Video. "Title of the Video." *YouTube*, Uploaded by Name of the Channel, Day Month Year of Upload, URL.
 - **Example:** PBS Space Time. "What If We Detonated a Nuclear Bomb on the Moon?" *YouTube*, Uploaded by PBS Space Time, 4 March 2023, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iap0H5Gi1-4.



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Works Cited

MLA Handbook. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

MLA Formatting and Style Guide. *The Purdue OWL*, 2 Aug. 2016,
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.