

**APSU Writing Center**  
MLA Style 9th Edition - Citing Books

### **Citing a Book by One Author**

**Basic Format:** Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Year.

#### **Examples:**

Mantel, Hilary. *Wolf Hall*. Picador, 2010.

Smith, John. *The Power of Habit*. Random House, 2012.

### **In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Author Last Name page number).
  - **Example:** (Smith 45).
- **Narrative Format:** Author's name appears in sentence.
  - **Example:** Smith argues that habits shape daily behavior (45).

### **Citing a Book by Two Authors**

**Basic Format:** Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

#### **Example:**

Garcia, Maria, and Sanjay Patel. *Economics: Principles and Applications*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2019.

### **In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Author 1's Last Name and Author 2's Last Name Page Number)
  - **Example:** (Smith and Johnson 25).
- **Narrative Format:** Author's name appears in sentence.
  - **Example:** Garcia and Patel explain economic equilibrium using real-world examples (25).

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**Book by an Unknown Author**

**Basic Format:** *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

**Examples**

*Beowulf*. Translated by Alan Sullivan and Timothy Murphy, edited by Sarah Anderson, Pearson, 2004.

*The Complete Guide to Gardening*. Penguin Books, 2020.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Title of Book Page Number).
  - **Example:** (Complete Guide 35)
- **Narrative Format:** The title of book appears in sentence.
  - **Example:** The Complete Guide to Gardening emphasizes soil preparation before planting (35).

**Book with Editor(s) and No Author**

**Basic Format:** Last Name of Editor, First Name, editor(s). *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

**Examples**

Sánchez Prado, Ignacio M., editor. *Mexican Literature in Theory*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

Smith, John, editor. *The Encyclopedia of Literature*. Penguin Books, 2019.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Editor's Last Name Page Number).
  - **Example:** (Sánchez Prado 72).
- **Narrative Format:** Editor's name appears in sentence.
  - **Example:** In *Mexican Literature in Theory*, Sánchez Prado discusses cultural identity (72).



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**Self-Published Book**

**Basic Format:** Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Date.

- If the author is also the publisher, MLA often omits the publisher name. If a self-publishing company name appears, include it.

**Examples**

Doe, John. *The Art of Self-Publishing*. Self-published, 2021.

Hocking, Amanda. *Fate*. 2010.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Author Last Name page number).
  - **Example:** (Hocking 10).
- **Narrative Format:** Author's name appears in sentence.
  - **Example:** Hocking explores themes of destiny and identity (10).

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**Citing a Book by One Author**

**Basic Format:** Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Year.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Author Last Name page number).

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** Author's name appears in sentence.

**Citing a Book by Two Authors**

**Basic Format:** Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Author 1's Last Name and Author 2's Last Name Page Number)

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** Author names appear in the sentence.

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**Book by an Unknown Author**

**Basic Format:** *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Title of Book Page Number).

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** The title of book appears in sentence.

**Book with Editor(s) and No Author**

**Basic Format:** Last Name of Editor, First Name, editor(s). *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Editor's Last Name Page Number).

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** Editor's name appears in sentence.



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Works Cited

Modern Language Association. "Citations by Format."

<https://style.mla.org/works-cited/citations-by-format/>.

University of Nevada, Reno Library. *MLA Citation Guide (MLA 9th Edition): Books*.

<https://guides.library.unr.edu/mlacitation/intextcitation>.