

MLA Style 9th Guide – Citing Books

APSU Writing Center Handout

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).

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).

Self-Published Book

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

If the author is also the publisher, MLA often omits the publisher's 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).

Works Cited

Modern Language Association. "Citations by Format." *MLA Style Center*, 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>.