

MLA 9 cheat sheet

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Paper format

- 1-inch margins, 12pt Times New Roman, double-spaced
- Page header top-right with last name + page number
- First page header (top-left): student name, instructor, course, date (each own line)
- Title centered above first paragraph, no bold or underline
- Block quotes 4+ lines: indented 0.5 inch, no quotation marks

In-text citations

- 1 author: (Author 42) - no comma between name and page
- 2 authors: (Smith and Jones 42) - "and" not "&"
- 3+ authors: (Smith et al. 42)
- No author: ("Article Title" 12) for short works; (Book Title 12) for long
- No page: (Author)
- Multiple works same author: (Smith, Citations 12)
- Two authors same surname: include first initial (J. Smith 42)

Works Cited

Works Cited rules

- Title "Works Cited" centered, no bold
- Hanging indent 0.5 inch
- Alphabetical by first author surname
- Italics for book/journal/website titles
- Quotation marks for article/chapter titles

Common patterns

Book

Author, First. Title of Book. Publisher, Year.

- Italicize book title; title case throughout.

Journal article

Author, First. "Article Title." Journal Name, vol. X, no. Y, Year, pp. 12-34.

- Italicize journal; quote article title.

Website

Author. "Page Title." Site Name, Day Month Year, URL.

- Italicize site name; abbreviate month for dates.

Chapter in edited book

Author. "Chapter." Book Title, edited by Editor, Publisher, Year, pp. 12-34.

- Use 'edited by' not 'Ed.'

YouTube video

Uploader. "Video Title." YouTube, uploaded by Channel, Day Month Year, URL.

- Cite the uploader after 'uploaded by'.

ChatGPT

"Prompt." ChatGPT, Day Month version, OpenAI, Day Month Year, chat.openai.com/share/XXX.

- Prompt sits as the title in quotes.

Tweet (X post)

@handle (Real Name). "Tweet text." Twitter, Day Month Year, time, URL.

- Use the handle as author.

Newspaper

Author. "Article Title." Newspaper Name, Day Month Year, URL.

- Italicize newspaper; include URL for online.

8 common MLA 9 mistakes

1. Using & instead of and in 2-author references.
2. Adding a comma between author name and page in in-text. APA does this; MLA does not.
3. Italicizing article titles instead of using quotation marks.
4. Forgetting the period after the closing quotation in article titles.
5. Using p. or pp. in in-text citations. MLA uses just the page number.
6. Adding URL to in-text citations. URLs go in Works Cited only.
7. Using sentence case for titles. MLA uses title case.
8. Forgetting the hanging indent on every Works Cited entry.

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Built for students who care about getting it right.