This fact sheet provides a comprehensive BEGINNER’S guide to entries in the MLA referencing system. For more specific information on how to reference using the MLA referencing style please visit: [MLA Style Manual (8th edition)](http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills/fact-sheets) or [the Purdue Online Writing Lab](http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills/fact-sheets).

### Variations in authors

**NOTE:** MLA requires page numbers or any other stable numbering system (e.g., chapters, sections or paragraphs) in in-text references for quotations and paraphrases. The numbers must be provided in the parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Single author</th>
<th>In-text</th>
<th>The idea of progress is much overrated (Addington 32–33). Addington states that the idea of progress is much overrated (32-33).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>Mitchell and Myles claim . . . (189). ... is one of the strengths of this theory (Mitchell and Myles 189).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text</td>
<td>This study is based on an economic model (Peters et al. 47).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text</td>
<td>Policy makers argue that the connection between science and business should not be viewed critically (Branscomb 45-46; Noble 60; Stokes 121-130).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text</td>
<td>In an early study, Emerson (“Problems”) identified . . . Later studies (“Bakhtin after”; “Bakhtin and the Actor”) modify this claim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text</td>
<td>(a) Scollon and Scollon argue that . . . (72). (b) An early study on literacy programs (A.L. Brown) indicated . . . In a more recent study, S. Brown found that . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text</td>
<td>The Syllabus Development Handbook advocates an inclusive approach in syllabus design (35). Mobile phones have changed . . . (“Mobile Phones”).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Two authors**

In the list of Works Cited, separate names with ‘and’ preceded by a comma before the second name.

Reverse only the name of the first author.

**C. Three or more authors**

In-text, cite only the first author’s surname, followed by ‘et al.’ Do not italicise.

In the list of Works Cited, provide only the first author’s name followed by et al.

**D. Citing several sources at once**

In-text, authors’ names are presented alphabetically and each reference is separated by a semicolon (;).

**E. Multiple works by the same author**

In-text, include the title of the work (or a shortened version) in parentheses to distinguish one source from others by the same author.

In the Works Cited, list the works under the same name in alphabetical order by title.

Give the author’s name in the first entry only. For subsequent entries, type three hyphens — followed by a full stop, a space, and the title.

**F. Authors with the same surname**

(a) co-authors of a work

(b) separate works by different authors

In-text, where it is necessary to distinguish one author from the other, use the authors’ initials.

Place initials before the surname in in-text citations.

**G. Author unknown**

Cite the name of the organisation that produced the work. If none, then use the title of the work.

If the author is the same as the publisher, begin the Works Cited entry with the title of the work, and list only the publisher.

**DO NOT** use the terms ‘Anon.’ or ‘Anonymous’ if you cannot find an author.
### H. Repeated citation from the same source

If you borrow from a single source repeatedly in a single paragraph, in subsequent sentences you may omit the author’s name after the first mention and only use the page number. You will have to repeat the name of the author if you introduce another source.

Be careful to avoid any ambiguity. If in doubt, repeat the full citation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text</th>
<th>Middlemarch represents a microcosm of the social and political changes in the early eighteenth century: “The expectations of the characters are the expectations of various sections of society in general” (Thornton 154). Lydgate and Rosamond’s love becomes a “battle of ambition and vanity” (162).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Variations in dates, editions, DOIs and websites

#### I. A work with no publication date

Use the date that you accessed the work if there is no obvious date of publication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text</th>
<th>Theatre Projects Consultants identified . . . (34). The evolution of theatre buildings . . . (Theatre Projects Consultants 34).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### J. Edition

If a source is 2nd or later edition, state the edition (xx ed.) after the title, separated by a full-stop. Do not italicise. An e-book such as Kindle or ProQuest Ebook, is considered a version and this should be listed after the title and before the publisher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text</th>
<th>Writers need to consider . . . (Heffernan et al. 218).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### K. DOIs and URLs

MLA 8th edition recommends including the DOI or URL when citing online sources. A DOI (digital object identifier) is a series of numbers and letters that are unique for a particular source. Use the DOI rather than the URL if available. If using the URL, delete http:// from the Works Cited entry. Do not include the URL in text. Follow the URL or DOI with a full stop.

The date of access is generally not required in MLA, but it is a good idea to include it when no other copyright or publication date is present.

### Examples of some common references in academic writing

#### 1. Book

(a) print  
(b) online  
(c) ebook

If an ebook does not have page numbers, do not use locations or device-specific numbers. Instead, if a book has books, chapters or sections, use those parts to identify the location of your citation.

| In-text | (a) Baker et al. find that the concept . . . (4).  
(b) Several levels of consciousness were found . . . (Tart).  
(c) Sawyer found that the influence of peers was... (ch. 7). |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### 2. Novels

(a) novel  
(b) scholarly edition  
(c) graphic novel

When a novel has numbered divisions, put the page number first, followed by a semicolon and add book/chapter/section numbers with appropriate abbreviation. For ebooks, if there is no page numbering, use chapters, books or sections to identify the citation.

For scholarly editions of classic novels, the date of original publication is placed immediately after the title. The editors of scholarly editions of novels are placed after the title.

| In-text | (a) Jack imagines that his room is full of “skyscrapers and cows and ships and trucks” (Donoghue 112).  
(b) Eliot describes Lydgate’s yearning to escape the misery of his marriage as having “a scheme of the universe in his soul” (217; bk. 3, ch.1)  
(c) Staples‘ illustrations in the graphic novel adopt the style of . . . (Vaughan and Staples) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. (a) Plays &amp; (b) Poetry</td>
<td>When citing works with line numbers, omit the page numbers and cite the work by reference to divisions (act, scene, book) and lines, separating the numbers with full stops. For example, for act II, scene 2, lines 81-82, use 2.81-82. If citing line numbers only, use the word lines the first time you cite in text (lines 2-5), and thereafter use only numbers (4-6). In short quotes, use a forward slash (/) to indicate the line breaks and two forward slashes (//) for stanza breaks. Direct quotations 4 lines or longer are indented as a block, with no quotation marks. Put the full stop after the last word, not after the parenthetical citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sacred texts, e.g. The Bible</td>
<td>For sacred texts, name the edition, and give the abbreviation of the book, chapter, and verse the first time you cite in text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>The Old Testament prophets often evoke strong imagery (<em>New Jerusalem Bible</em>, Ezek. 1.5-10). [Subsequent references require only book, chapter, and verse.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Classics</td>
<td>Specify only the date of the edition used, not the date of the creation of the work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>Virgil expresses the view that . . . (<em>Eclogues</em> 6.19). [The numbering of divisions (stanzas or lines) remains the same in all editions; use division numbers rather than page numbers.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Works of art (photos, paintings, sculptures, etc.)</td>
<td>In the Works Cited entry, for original art works, give information about the medium of composition, e.g. painting, sculpture, installation, etc. Give the institution and city in which the art work is located. Include the name of the website in italics and the date of access if referring to a reproduction found online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>The pose of Rodin’s <em>The Thinker</em> has been copied and parodied innumerable times. The romantic aspects of Wyeth’s painting are represented . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Website</td>
<td>(a) entire website (b) page on a website Include URL (without http://), DOI or permalink, the date of access and the publication date when available. No author: Use sponsor/organisation or title of the article if possible; otherwise, start with the title of the article in double quotation marks, italicise the title of the entire website. Publisher: The publisher may be omitted if there is no publisher, or if the website title is the same as the publisher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>HINT: When you paste in the URL, DO NOT START ON A NEW LINE. Paste it next to the comma that comes after the viewing date. Then, you can get part of the address to sit on the same line by using a ‘soft return’ (hold down ‘shift’ and tap ‘return’). Delete http:// from the address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Journal articles</td>
<td>(a) article in a journal (print) (b) article in electronic journal (no doi) (c) article in electronic journal (doi) The volume number follows the title of the journal. Use the abbreviations vol. for volume number and no. for issue number. The year follows the issue number, followed by pp. and the page range. If you retrieved the article from a database, put the name of the database (e.g. ProQuest) in italics in your citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works Cited</td>
<td>(a) Reid and Sand argue that . . . (26). An earlier study (Reid and Sand) suggests that . . . (26). (b) Cruz et al. found that . . . The study found a link between . . . (Cruz et al.). (c) Breeding alpacas can be a “life-changing experience” (McMullen 504).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills/fact-sheets
| 9. Chapter in an edited book | In-text | Write an entry for the author of the chapter. Use the date of publication of the edited book. If you use information from the introduction, foreword, preface, or afterward, show it in the works cited entry after the author's name and before the book title. |
| 10. Reading on eReserve (University Library) | In-text | Burton argues that . . . (48). |
| 11. Secondary reference | In-text | Gombrich argues that both art and nature are “needs of the mind” (qtd. in Norrington 22). Nakayama et al. explain that the writing style of structured abstracts began in medical research journals in the 1980s (qtd. in Hartley 31). |
| 12. Dictionaries / Encyclopaedias (a) dictionary (b) encyclopaedia (c) online dictionary or encyclopaedia | In-text | (a) A “primary verb” is one of the three verb types . . . (“Primary verb”). (b) AC/DC, formed in 1973, became one of Australia’s best known rock groups (“AC/DC”). (c) Tmesis involves separating syllables of a word with other intervening words, e.g. fan-damn-tastic (“Tmesis”). [The in-text citation here refers to the consulted term, not the author. The term is placed in quotation marks and parentheses at the end of the sentence.] |
| 13. Pamphlet/brochure | In-text | According to the High Country Urban Biodiversity Project, a large diversity of native wildflowers grows on the New England Tableland. |
| 14. UNE teaching materials unit Information / topic notes / assessment / presentation slides / lectures | In-text | According to Waters, storytelling is . . . (32). Bradfield argues that the kangaroo . . . |
| 15. Newspaper or magazine article (a) specified author i. print newspaper ii. online newspaper (b) unspecified author | In-text | (a) Target funding is not being met (Leech 13). Adoniou suggests that . . . (Leech 13). (a i.) Leech, Garry. "Call for Research Shake-up." The Australian, 19 Sept. 2002, p. 13. (a ii.) Adoniou, Misty. "NAPLAN Results Show It Isn’t the Basics That Are Missing In Australian Education." The Conversation. 5 Aug. 2017, theconversation.com/naplan-results-show-it- isnt-the-basics-that-are-missing-in-australian-education-82113. (b) "The situation on Manus island . . . (“Four Years on Manus”). |

Sources: www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills/fact-sheets
## 16. Audio-visual

(a) **film** (give the director, lead actors or narrator, to emphasise specific performers or directors, begin with the name of the performer or director)

(b) **DVD**

(c) **CD-ROM**

(d) **television & radio programs**

(e) **TV & radio episodes**

(f) **Digital platforms (Netflix, Stan, Amazon Prime, etc.)**

(g) **YouTube video**

### Works Cited

- **In-text**: 
  - (a) In *The Third Man* the music plays a key role in creating the sense of . . .
  - (b) *Before the Flood* explored . . .
  - (c) Fine-tuning the vocal folds creates different voice qualities . . . (Reid).
  - (d) “The Future of Work” examines the transition from . . .
  - (e) The representation of women in the fashion industry . . . (“The Shape Shifters”).
  - (f) The final episode in season 1, . . . (“Chapter Eights: The Upside Down”).
  - (g) Chomsky identifies two serious threats to humankind.

- **Works Cited**: 

## 17. Music

*Begin with the artist name. If different from the artist, list the composer and performer after the title.*

*Individual songs are in quotation marks; album names are in italics. Give the name of the recording manufacturer and publication date.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Album</th>
<th>(b) Song on an album</th>
<th>(c) Song on Spotify</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Works Cited

- **In-text**: 
  - (a) The Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9 in D Minor*. The bassoon solo in the final section of Part 1 of Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring* . . .
  - (b) The lyrics in “Rainbowland” (Cyrus) are suggestive of . . .
  - (c) The inspiration for Howlin’ Wolf’s “Smokestack Lightnin’” . . .

- **Works Cited**: 

## 18. Performance

*If you are citing the play, put the title of the play first in the Work Cited entry.*

*If you are citing a contribution of a particular individual, begin with that person’s name and role e.g. performer, director, choreographer, conductor.*

### Works Cited

- **In text**: 
  - In the recent performance of Shepard’s play, *Fool for Love*, the role of May is played by Juliette Lewis . . .

- **Works Cited**: 

## 19. Advertisements

*To cite an advertisement, name the product or company followed by the word, “advertisement.”*

### Works Cited

- **In-text**: 
  - The use of children in advertising has been recently debated. For example, a recent Qantas television commercial depicts . . .

- **Works Cited**: 
  - Example 1 from a *TV commercial* Qantas. Advertisement. NBN, Tamworth, 4 Apr. 2010.

## 20. Personal communication

*Information privately obtained e.g. personal conversation, interview, letter, email.*

### Works Cited

- **In-text**: 
  - Darnell cast doubts on the statistical methods used.
  - In an email communication on 3 May 2008, Edward Hall explained . . .

- **Works Cited**: 
  - Darnell, Peter. Personal interview. 22 Nov. 2003.

## 21. Tweets

*Use the user’s twitter handle in place of the author’s name, and include the entire tweet in quotation marks as the title. Provide the date and time of posting, using the reader’s time zone. Add the date accessed if necessary.*

### Works Cited

- **In-text**: 
  - David Attenborough has commented on the importance of the natural world (@SirDavidBBC).

- **Works Cited**: 
  - @SirDavidBBC. “People must feel that the natural world is important and valuable and beautiful and wonderful and an amazement and a pleasure.” *Twitter*, 19 June 2013, 9:15 a.m., twitter.com/SirDavidBBC/status/347387148074373121.

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