Based on the Modern Language Association of America. MLA Handbook. 8th ed. MLA, 2016 -

From the MLA Handbook:

- **Remember that there is often more than one correct way to document a source**
  “Different situations call for different solutions. A writer whose primary purpose is to give credit for borrowed material may need to provide less information than a writer who is examining the distinguishing features of particular editions (or even specific copies) of source text. Similarly, scholars working in specialized fields may need to cite details about their sources that other scholars making more general use of the same resources to not.”

- **Make your documentation useful to readers**
  “Good writers understand why they create citations. The reasons include demonstrating the thoroughness of the writer’s research, giving credit to original sources, and ensuring that readers can find the sources consulted in order to draw their own conclusions about the writer’s argument. Writers achieve the goals of documentation by providing sufficient information in a comprehensible, consistent structure.”

A works-cited list in MLA style is organized **alphabetically** by the first word in each citation. After the first line, indent all subsequent lines one half inch from the left margin. **All citations should be double spaced.** Capitalize the important words in the title, and italicize the main title in the citation. Include the full name of the author (e.g., Katz, William A.) and the shortened form of the publisher (e.g., Oxford UP).

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS**

- The source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1.) upon the source medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD) and (2.) upon the source’s entry on the Works Cited (bibliography) page.
- Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.
In-text citations: Author

The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Wordsworth, they would find the following information:


WORKS CITED ENTRIES

BOOK – PRINT

Last Name, First Name. Title of Book, City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

(Note: the city of publication should only be used if the book was published before 1900.)

One Author:


Joyce, James. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. Viking Press, 1956

Book – More than One Author:


Three or more authors:


CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN A BOOK


BOOK – ELECTRONIC


**PARENTHEtical DOCUMENTATION**

- Cite the author’s last name and page(s) cited.
  EXAMPLE: (Tinker 2)

- For two or three authors, provide all names in the order listed on the title page.
  EXAMPLE: (Tinker, Evers, and Chance 24)
• If citing more than three authors, give the first author’s last name followed by et al. with no other punctuation.  
  EXAMPLE: (Lennon et al. 9)

• If your works cited list contains more than one author with the same last names, you must add the authors’ first initial.  
  EXAMPLE: (G. Marx) (K. Marx)

• If the source you’re citing doesn’t have an author, use a shortened version of the title, making sure to include the first word that it’s alphabetized by in the Works Cited list.  
  EXAMPLE: (Primary Colors 43)

MLA Citation Tip Sheet: https://grants.nmsu.edu/library/