



In-Text Citation

Students use **MLA** in their essays and research papers in order to tell where they found their information. To do this, student writers indicate the name of the author, if possible, or other guiding word or words and the page number on which the quote, paraphrase, or summary is located. Readers can then go to the **Works Cited** list at the end of the essay or research paper to find out the rest of the information about the source.

Below are some samples of MLA citation taken from essays and research papers. Notice that all the quotes have a lead-in that gives either the author's name or an indication that a quote, paraphrase or summary is coming. After the quote, the student writer includes the page number from which the quote was taken if the page number is available.

To find exactly where the quoted material was taken, the reader can use the author's name or indicating word and check it with the Works Cited list. With the citation and Works Cited information, the reader can find exactly where the quote originated.

This quote with a citation was taken from an essay: Thomas Bartlett in talking about plagiarism says, "For example, Mr. Poshard writes that opium was 'used as both a medicine and a drug of indulgence throughout the world'" (A9).

(The author of the quote is Bartlett and the page number where the quote can be found is A9. See "Bartlett" on the Works Cited on the back of this sheet for the information about the journal in which this quote can be found.)

This quote with a citation taken from a research paper: A journal article on plagiarism stated, "Once the students take the information from a source, they credit the source in the box provided on a data chart" ("Teaching" 20).

(This article had no author, so the citation uses the first word of the title, "Teaching," and the page number, 20. Find information about the journal in which the quote can be found by looking under "Teaching" on the works cited list on the back of this page.)

This quote with a citation taken from an essay: The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* says, "In planning a site, landscape architects first study the project holistically" (United).

(This quote is taken from an online government publication. The author is the United States government, and there are no page numbers. Look for the rest of the information about the source under "United" on the works cited list on the back of this sheet.)

This quote with a citation taken from a research paper: The instructor said, “To avoid plagiarism, be sure to cite and document using MLA standards whenever you’re in doubt” (Henshaw).

(This quote is from a lecture in an English composition class. Because the instructor’s name is not included before the quote, it must be used in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Find more information about this lecture on the works cited list under “Henshaw.”)

This is a quote with a citation taken from a research paper: Watkins and Regmi report surprising results from the study of Nepalese graduate students:

Content analysis showed that academic success was most frequently attributed to effort, but failure, a much more common occurrence, was most often ascribed to internal factors not within the students’ control, such as illness, or external factors, such as lack of resources, poor quality of teaching, and inaccurate marking by instructors. Attribution to ability was rare. (241)

(This is a long quotation because it takes more than three lines of typing to include it in the essay or research paper. The authors are Watkins and Regmi, and the page on which the quote can be found is 241. See the works cited list under “Watkins” to find more information about the journal from which this quote came.)

The **MLA works cited list** appears on the **last page of the essay or research paper**. Readers can use the information on this page with the MLA information in the essay or research paper and find exactly where the quote can be found.

Works Cited

Bartlett, Thomas. “Southern Illinois U. Plagiarism Battles Reach President’s Office.” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 54.4 (2007): A9. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 7 Feb. 2008.

Henshaw, Patricia. “MLA Citation And Documentation.” Lecture. Sacramento City College. Business Building, Sacramento. 23 Feb. 2009.

“Teaching, Not Policing.” *T H E Journal* 34.9 (2007): 20. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 7 Feb. 2008.

Watkins, David, and Muran Regmi. “Attributing Academic Success and Failure in Nepal.” *Journal of Social Psychology* 134.2 (1994): 241-242. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 23 Feb. 2009.

United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “Landscape Architects.” *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition*. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 Dec. 2007. Web. 23 Feb. 2009.