MLA Referencing Style

What is it?

Academic writing requires the author to support their arguments with reference to other published work or experimental results/findings. A reference system will perform three essential tasks:

- Enable you to acknowledge other authors' ideas (avoid plagiarism).
- Enable a reader to quickly locate the source of the material you refer to so they can consult it if they wish.
- Indicate to the reader the scope and depth of your research.

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is a widely used referencing system to help you achieve these objectives.

How do I use the Style?

The MLA system involves two tasks:

- How you compile a list of reference sources at the end of your text (reference list).
- How you refer to other authors in the body of your text (in text citation).

Below is a list of some common citation types along with examples of how they are laid out within the MLA Style guidelines.

Notation guide

REF = reference list

ITC = in text citation

Book with one author

REF: Author last name, First name. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: McDonagh, Sean. Why are we Deaf to the Cry of the Earth. Dublin: Veritas, 2001.
ITC:

- (Author Last name page)
- (Page no)

Example

- In another study (McDonagh 80)....
- McDonagh has discussed (80)....

**Book with two or three authors**

**REF:** Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.


**ITC:**

- (Author(s) last name and last author last name page)
- (Page no)

Example

- Others highlight a different factor (McLean and Elkind 122)....
- Bethany and McLean (122) highlight....

**Book with more than three authors**

**REF:** First Author Last name, First name et al. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.


**ITC:**

- (First author’s last name et al. page no)
- (Page no)
Example

- It has been suggested (McGeady et al. 155)....
- McGeady (155) suggests....

**Book with a corporate author**

REF: Organisation name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.


ITC:

- (Organisation name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Figures released (Department of Agriculture 25) at the time....
- Figures from the Department of Agriculture (25)....

**Book with an editor**

REF: Editors(s) last name, First name and last editors First name Last name. Ed(s). *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.


ITC:

- (Editor(s) Last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another approach (Booth 55) shows....
- Booth (55) argues....
Chapter in an edited book

REF: Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. “Title of chapter.” Title of Collection. Ed. Editor(s) First name last name and last editor First name Last name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Page range.


ITC:

- (Author(s) Last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another approach (Jonson 239)....
- Jonson (239) writes....

Print Journal article

REF: Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal volume. Issue (year): pages.


ITC:

- (Author(s) Last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another author (Mann 850) argues....
- Mann (850) argues....
E-journal article


ITC:
- (Author(s) Last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example
- Exploring this topic (Faris 440)....
- Faris (440) highlights the role....

Print Newspaper article

REF: Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. Article title. Newspaper title Day Month Year of publication, Page number.


ITC:
- (Author(s) last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example:
- Others (Gleeson 16) argue....
- Gleeson (16) argues....
Online Newspaper article

REF: Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. Article title. Newspaper title. Website title day Month Year of publication. Medium of publication. Day Month Year accessed.


ITC: (Author(s) last name)

Example: Others (Keenan) reported....

Page on a website

REF: Author(s) Last Name, First Name (if available). Name of Site. Day Month Year of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Day Month Year accessed.


ITC: Use first few words of the page title.

Example: According to another source (Evaluating Internet Research)....

Website

REF: Author(s) Last Name, First Name (if available). Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), Year of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Day Month Year of access.


ITC: (Author Last name /Website name)

Example: According to another source (Harris)....
Blog

REF: Author(s) Last Name, First Name (if available). “Posting Title.” Name of Site, Day Month Year of publication. Medium of publication. Day Month Year of access.


ITC: (Author(s) Last name)

Example: According to another source (O’Connor)....

Email communication

REF: Sender Last name, First name. "Subject Title of Email." Message to the author. Day Month Year email sent. Email.


ITC: (Sender Last name)

Example: Additional figures provided (Graham) prove....

Interviews

REF: Interviewee(s) Last Name, First name. Personal Interview. Day Month Year of interview.


ITC: (Interviewee(s) Last name)

Example: Additional figures provided (Higgins) prove....

Government agency publication

REF: Organisation name. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.

ITC:

- (Organisation name page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- Figures released (Department of Health & Children 25) at the time....
- Figures from the Department of Health & Children (25)....

**Parliamentary and legal material**

REF: Jurisdiction. Series no: *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year.


ITC: (Short form of title)

Example: Legislation introduced at the time (Equality, Integration, Disability 2011)....

**EU publications**

REF: EU agency name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication.


ITC:

- (EU agency name page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Figures released (European Commission 11) at the time....
- European Commission figures (25) show....
Conferences

REF: Author(s) last name, First name and last author’s First name Last name. “Title of paper.” Title of conference proceedings. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Pages. Format.


ITC: (Author(s) last name)

Example: According to another source (O’Connor 68)....

Theses

REF: Author Last name, First name. “Title.” Degree statement. Degree-awarding body, Year. Format.


ITC:

- (Author Last name page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- As argued elsewhere (Allen 55)....
- Allen (55) disagrees with this....

Audio-visual material

REF: Title. Dir. Director’s first name last name. Film studio/distributor, year. Format.


ITC: (Title of film)
Example: Singer’s 1995 hit (The Usual Suspects) grossed.....

**EndNote** is a software application that allows researchers store and manage all references in one place. It is available via Software for U and the Library runs regular introductory and advanced training sessions.

- Users can record, store and manage references in hundreds of citation styles.
- Users can add references manually or search and download directly from online databases and library catalogues.
- **EndNote Cite While You Write** features allows users to insert citations easily and creates bibliographies automatically in Microsoft Word (and Apple's Pages ’09 with EndNote version X2).

More information about Library support for Endnote is available on [our website](http://www.ucd.ie/library/endnote)¹.

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