MLA Citations Overview
IRSC Libraries offers one-on-one citation assistance. Stop by a campus library or email or call a librarian to make an appointment.

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Learning Objectives

- Review plagiarism pitfalls and how to avoid them
- Review MLA requirements
- Utilize Library LibGuides to obtain additional help
Why do we need to cite the sources we use in our research?

✓ To acknowledge the author’s research and ideas
✓ To avoid plagiarism by citing quotes and paraphrasing
✓ To provide information on how to track down sources
✓ To strengthen your thesis
✓ To document the research you have conducted on your topic by listing the credible sources you found
Plagiarism involves the inappropriate use of another person’s creation, especially when academic credit is awarded. Examples include an individual’s words, images, music, ideas, and more.

✓ Plagiarism is a violation of the student code of conduct
✓ Accidental plagiarism is still wrong and punishable
Avoid plagiarism by

- Using an in-text citation wherever you draw from another person’s ideas or concepts (even when you are putting something into your own words)
- Using quotes AND an in-text citation when using someone’s exact words
- Reading your work aloud or asking another person to read your work for you. If your language suddenly changes to a different style – that’s a red flag!
A Works Cited page contains a list of the sources that you used to write your paper. It is the last page of your paper.

Works Cited references provide enough information for your readers to locate your sources to follow up on a point you made or to obtain additional information.

Each of these references will follow a prescribed format. MLA rules determine the information you will include and proper formatting of your Works Cited page.
Examples: Short story inside of a collection

Robert DiYanni
New York University

Special Edition for Indian River State College

Constance Mair and Marnene Fierro
The McGraw-Hill Handbook
Third Edition

Elaine P. Naimon
George Mason University

Janice H. Peritz
Queens College, City University of New York

Kathleen Blake Yancey
Florida State University

Boston  Burr Ridge, IL  Dubuque, IA  New York  San Francisco  St. Louis
Bangkok  Bogotá  Caracas  Lisbon  London  Madrid
Mexico City  Milan  New Delhi  Seoul  Singapore  Sydney  Taipei  Toronto
Examples: Short story inside of a collection

**Title of container:** Literature

**Publisher:** The McGraw-Hill Handbook

**Author:** Robert DiYanni

**Title of source:** Literature

**Version:** Sixth Edition

**Other contributor:** The McGraw-Hill Handbook

**Location:** Special Edition for Indian River State College

**Author:** Robert DiYanni

**Title of source:** Literature

**Publisher:** The McGraw-Hill Handbook

**Version:** Sixth Edition
"Unraveling the Deeper Meaning" : Exile and the Embodied Poetics of Displacement in Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried"

Author(s): Tina Chen
Source: Contemporary Literature, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Spring, 1998), pp. 77-98
Published by: University of Wisconsin Press
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1208922
Accessed: 26-07-2016 17:50 UTC

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"Unraveling the Deeper Meaning": Exile and the Embodied Poetics of Displacement in Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried"

Author(s): Tina Chen

Source: Contemporary Literature, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Spring, 1998), pp. 77-98
Published by: University of Wisconsin Press
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Accessed: 28-07-2016 17:50 UTC

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In-text citations denote each use of a particular reference in your paper.

In-text citations contain the author’s last name and the page number where you obtained the information for your statement. There are variations on this, such as if you reference the author in the sentence or if the Works Cited entry begins with the title because there is no personal author.
In-text examples

The most recent report on the use of experiments shows a correlation between results and participants (Brown 152-54).

Brown's recent report on the use of experiments shows a correlation between results and participants (152).
MLA Style Guide, 8th Edition: About MLA

This LibGuide reflects the changes to MLA style as directed by the MLA Handbook, Eighth Edition.

Information about MLA Changes

The MLA Handbook, 8th Edition was published in 2016 and adopted by IRSC Libraries in August 2016. Many databases and citation generators have not yet updated to the 8th edition. Please check with your instructor about which version of MLA to use in your assignments.


MLA Works Cited Core Elements

The core elements of any entry in the Works Cited list are shown in the chart below. The core elements are in the order in which they should appear, followed by the appropriate punctuation mark. If an element cannot be found or does not apply to the source being cited, omit that element from the entry. End the entry with a period.

Each core element is explained in detail with examples on its own page under the Works Cited Entries Core Elements dropdown menu.

MLA References

The standard citation style guide for the humanities, especially languages and literature, is the MLA Handbook, 8th edition. 2016. The Modern Language Association of America (MLA) publishes the manual. It is commonly referred to as the "MLA Manual" or the "MLA Handbook".

The English departments at IRSC recommend MLA format for papers written in these fields.

Two types of citations are included in most research papers: citations within the text of the document and a list of reference citations at the end of the paper.

In-Text Citations:

In-text citations appear in the body of your paper. They identify your use of an idea or quotation from one of your sources. The MLA Handbook uses the author-page citation system for in-text citations.

Reference Citations:
MLA Research Paper Template

Properly formatted MLA Style research paper. Download to your PC and save as a template, you will always have the correct format for writing your papers.

Title of MLA Paper

The main idea of the paper begins after the title. Establish your topic, purpose, and the position you are taking in your paper. This is where you will state your thesis.

Be sure to use proper formatting for your in-text citations. The following sentence shows one way to cite a source from the Works Cited page. The earliest explorers of North America were Canaries from Iceland (Riggs 11). Another method of citing the same source is to use a signal phrase containing the author’s name. According to Riggs, the earliest North American...
Research Assistance Available
irsc.libguides.com/contactus

Indian River State College has a wealth of online resources to help you complete your research, but do not hesitate to ask a librarian if you need help on a specific project or class.

Click on the librarian for contact information. For virtual students and those students at the Dixon Hendry or Chastain campuses, email any librarian to be connected with personalized research assistance.