MLA Citation Style
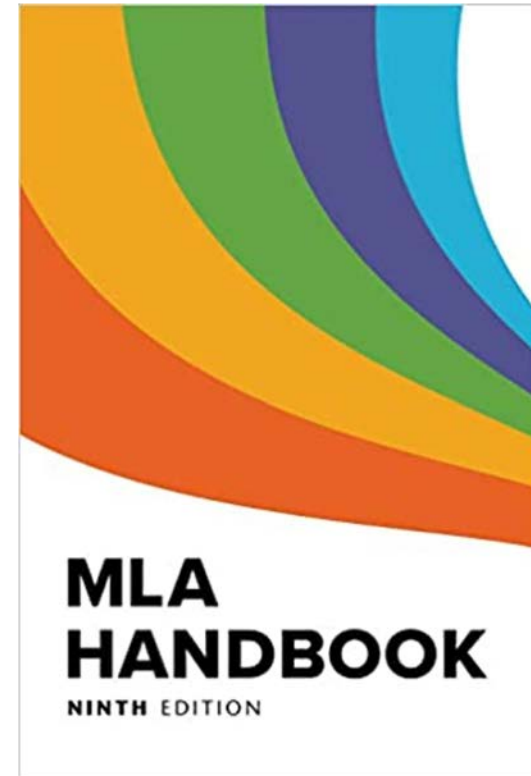# for Academic Writing

9th Edition

Writing is 1% inspiration, and 99% elimination. — Louise Brooks

There is no great writing, only great rewriting. — Justice Brandeis

What is MLA Style?

MLA provides guidelines for—

➢ Overall manuscript format
➢ Page numbers
➢ In-text citations
➢ Works cited page

MLA HANDBOOK

NINTH EDITION

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MLA General Format

- Double-spaced throughout

- 1" margins

- Paragraphs indented ½"

- Only one space after punctuation

- No title page

Sample First Page

Your Name

Instructor's Name

Your class

28 August 2019

Title

First paragraph xxxx xxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xxxxx

xxxxxx xxxx xxxx xxxxx xxx

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Language Usage

- Write in a clear and direct manner.

- Use formal, academic style.

- Use inclusive language.

- Do not use contractions: don't, can't, etc.

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Inclusive Language

- Be respectful while describing individuals and groups.

- Avoid bias that could make people feel excluded.

- Strive for language that recognizes that your audience includes people from different backgrounds.

Inclusive Language

- Make reference to identity relevant.
  - **Avoid** phrases like *African American congresswoman, female conductor, transgender actor* because they can imply being outside the norm.

- Be precise and specific. Broad language can ignore diversity.
  - For example, instead of "Native American" languages, give the name of the language, such as Navajo or Cherokee.

- Avoid stereotyping.
  - Chair or chair person, not chairman

Inclusive Language
Examples

- Use people-first language, avoiding definition by a single experience.
  - **Avoid:** *a blind person, a depressed person.*
  - **Use:** *a person who is blind, a person with depression.*

- Use thoughtful capitalization. In doubt? Check the dictionary.
  - Use *Egyptian, Mormon, bisexual, retiree*.
  - *Black* is now preferred by many to *black*

In-Text Citations
How to Avoid Plagiarism

- In MLA style, all direct quotes/passages, paraphrases, class notes, class discussions, theories, and ideas <u>not your own</u> must be documented.

- Citations use an author-page parenthetical style.

In-Text Citations
How to Avoid Plagiarism

- A paraphrase should convey only the important details of the original material into your own words and sentence structure.

- Maintaining the sentence structure of the original and plugging in synonyms is insufficient.

- Careful note taking, recording the original source along with its page number, and identifying when you copy the source word for word will also help you avoid plagiarism.

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Adding and Omitting Words

Adding words
Use [brackets] around the words you want to add.
Original: "We are taking the only measures that we have to bring inflation down."
Revised: "We [the Fed] are taking the only measures that we have to bring inflation down.""

Omitting Words
Use **. . .** for words you want to omit.
Original: "The process of getting inflation back down to 2 percent has a long way to go and is likely to be bumpy."
Revised: "The process of getting inflation back down to 2 percent . . . is likely to be bumpy."

Adding and Omitting Words
When Using Word

When using Microsoft Word, the autocorrect function will delete the spaces in between ellipses.

To prevent that you can:
- Change the autocorrect function by going into Settings
- Use the Find and Replace tool:

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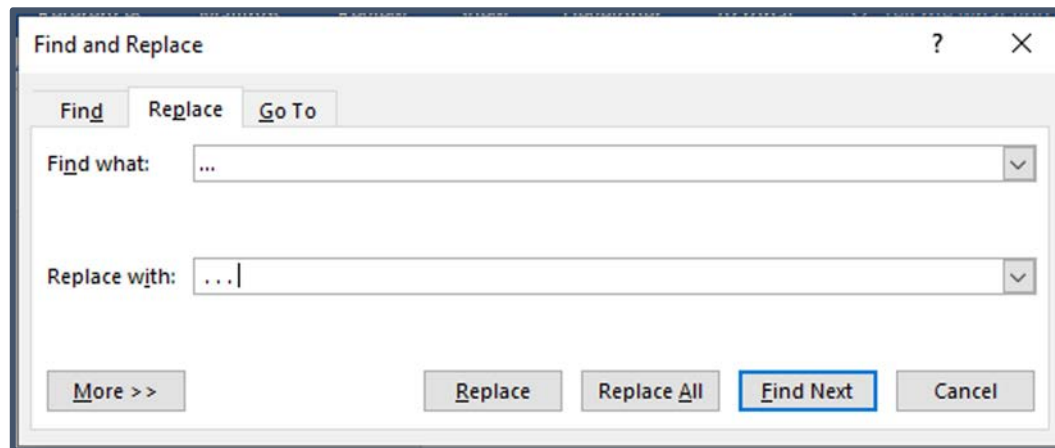
In-Text Citations
Citing Authors

In MLA, the **full name** of a source is used on first mention. Then, you just need the **surname** of the author.

In Md Sarfaraj Nawab and Asrin Khatun's "Exploring the Surveillance Culture: A Study of the Social Media Syndrome of the Present Day with Special Reference to George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*," they say, "[T]he purpose of the novel is actually to exude this superficiality because in this Orwellian society 'individualism' is a criminal offense and 'privacy,' a non-existent thing" (110).

In the same article, Nawab and Khatun draw a connection to *Nineteen Eighty Four*'s surveillance society with today's social media consumption, arguing that the lines of our reality are blurred because of smartphones, causing people to act in specific and unhealthy ways to acquire the virtual approval of others (111).

In-Text Citations
Paraphrasing Authors

Passage in source: American Exceptionalism as our founders conceived it was defined by what America *was*, at home. Foreign policy existed to defend, not define, what America was.

Paraphrase (**unacceptable**): American exceptionalism as the founding fathers envisioned the concept was given meaning by America as a homeland. Programs focused on other countries were there to protect America, not delineate it.

Paraphrase (**acceptable**): As conceived, American Exceptionalism was based on the country's domestic identity, which foreign policy did not shape but merely guarded. **OR,**
As Walter A. McDougall argues, for the founding fathers American Exceptionalism was based on the country's domestic identity, which foreign policy did not shape but merely guarded (37).

In-Text Citations
One Author

Direct Quotation:

Peetz stated, "If there was one area where technology has failed miserably to live up to its promise, it is in that area of transport" (55).

Paraphrase:

Peetz said that technology has not been successful in reaching its potential concerning the area of transportation (55).

OR

Regarding transport, technology has been unsuccessful in rising to its potential (Peetz 55).

In-Text Citations
Two Authors

Examples:

Others, like Jay Lemery and Paul Auerbach, note that doctors have not yet adequately explained the effects climate change will have on human health (4-5). Lemery and Auerbach's book focuses on the human, not the environmental, risks.

OR

Others note that doctors have not yet adequately explained the effects climate change will have on human health (Lemery and Auerbach 4-5).

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In-Text Citations
Three or More Authors

List only **the first author's last name** and use **et al.** for the remaining authors' last names.

Examples:

Raymond Nickerson and colleagues argue that the truth value of statements–their premises and conclusions–is one factor that affects how people are persuaded by arguments (135).

OR

The authors argue that the truth value of statements–their premises and conclusions–is one factor that affects how people are persuaded by arguments (Nickerson et al. 135).

In-Text Citations
Multiple Works by the Same Author

When citing multiple works by the same author, include the **author's name** and identify each work either by **italics** (books) or by **quotation marks** (articles or titles of short stories).

Example:
Chincholi describes how technology can be helpful with visualizing complex ideas in educational settings ("Using Technology in Education"). However, he mentions that we must also address issues with energy consumption in order to use AI technology sustainably ("How to Unleash the Potential of AI").

Corresponding Works Cited Entries:

Chincholi, Abhinand. "How To Unleash The Potential Of AI Efficiently And Responsibly." *Forbes*, 16 Aug. 2023, https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/08/16/how-to-unleash-the-potential-of-ai-efficiently-and-responsibly/?sh=34979e7e4d6c.

—. "Using Technology In Education To Connect Physically And Digitally." *Forbes*, 27 Mar. 2023, https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/03/27/using-technology-in-education-to-connect-physically-and-digitally/?sh=40f03a365116.

In-Text Citations
Unknown Author

Use the first few words of the title in place of an author's name.

Example:
"With courses available in almost every subject, and flexible timetables to suit almost every lifestyle, students are increasingly turning to online learning as a viable alternative to on-campus study" ("Online Learning in 2023").

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:
"Online Learning in 2023 - What Is It and How Does It Work?" *Educations*, 2023, www.educations.com/study-guides/study-online/.

In-Text Citations
Corporate or Organization Authors

Corporate or organization authors can be **shortened to the shortest noun phrase** when it is a **parenthetical citation**.

Example:
According to one study of climate change, the "speed of warming is more than ten times that at the end of an ice age, the fastest known natural sustained change on a global scale" (National Academy and Royal 9).

In-Text Citations
Government Authors

If a government agency is the author, **list the name of the government first, followed by a comma,** and then the **name of the agency.**

Example:
"It is States and communities, as well as public and private organizations of all kinds, that establish schools and colleges, develop curricula, and determine requirements for enrollment and graduation" (United States, Dept. of Education).

In-Text Citations
Drama and Plays

- Put the character's name in capital letters and a period after their name.
- Follow the pattern of spacing in the play and use hanging indents for subsequent lines.

Example: In the play *Titus Andronicus*, the Goth queen Tamora pleads for her son's life:

TITUS. I give him you, the noblest that survives,
　　　The eldest son of this distressed queen.
TAMORA. Stay, Roman brethren, gracious conqueror,
　　　victorious Titus, rue the tears I shed,
　　　A mother's tears in passion for her son;
　　　And if thy sons were dear to three,
　　　O, think my son to be as dear to me! (1.1.119-25)

In-Text Citations
Block Quotations

In Alcott's *A Whisper in the Dark*, Sybil is a representation of a strong feminine identity without having to be masculine as symbolized by her hair. In various sections at the beginning of the novel, Sybil narrates her appearance in lengthy paragraphs:

> I surveyed myself in the long mirror as I had never done before, and saw there a little figure, slender, yet stately, in a dress of foreign fashion, ornamented with lace and carnation ribbons . . . while blond hair wavy and golden, was gathered into an antique knot of curls behind, with a carnation fillet, and below a blooming dark-eyed face, just then radiant with girlish vanity and eagerness and hope. (298)

Alcott, Louisa May. *A Modern Mephistopheles; and A Whisper in the Dark.* Boston, 1889.

In-Text Citations
Poetry

- Place quotation marks around a line or verse.
- Use forward slash (/) to separate line breaks and put a space before and after the slash.
- Use two forward slashes (//) for stanza breaks.

Example:

Reflecting on the incident in Baltimore, Cullen concludes, "Of all the things that happened there / That's all that I remember." (lines 11-12).

Cullen, Countee. "Incident." 1925. https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42618/incident-56d2213a45f36

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In-text Citations
Indirect Quotations

- When a quotation contains cited material from a secondary source, the original source must be acknowledged.

- When possible, MLA recommends going to the original source to quote from it directly.

In-text Citations
Indirect Quotations

Original Source:

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 289).

Work Cited;

(Do not include Samuel Johnson in Works Cited)

Boswell, James. *Boswell's Life of Johnson.* Edited by Augustine Birrell, vol. 3, Times Book Club, 1911.

Works Cited Page
Basic Format

- Use Works Cited in the top center of a new page.
  - Do not underline, bold, or italicize.

- Maintain double-spacing throughout, including between citation entries.

- Indent second and subsequent lines after the first line (hanging indent).

Works Cited
Core Elements

*A container is the "larger whole" that holds the source. A **book is the container** that holds a specific source such as a poem, an essay, or a narrative. Not all sources have Container 2.*

Author. "Title of Source." ***Title of Container 1***, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location. ***Title of Container 2***, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Works Cited
Types of Containers

Container 1
- Periodical that contains articles (journal, magazine, newspaper)
- Television series that consists of several episodes
- Website that posts articles
- Book with several chapters

Container 2
- Publishers such as *Google Books*
- Academic databases such as *JSTOR*
- Streaming services such as *Netflix*

Works Cited
Template

1. Author.	Goldman, Anne.
2. Title of source.	"Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante."
3. Title of container,	*The Georgia Review,*
4. Version,	-----
5. Number,	vol. 64, no. 1,
6. Location.	pp. 69-88.
7. Publisher,	-----
8. Publication date,	2015,
9. Title of 2nd container,	*JSTOR,*
10. Location. (Using 2nd container)	www.jstor.org/stable/41403188

Works Cited
Example

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading

Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia*

Review, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. *JSTOR*,

www.jstor.org/stable/41403188.

Works Cited
Page Example

Works Cited

Baker, Kerryn. "Great Expectations: Gender and Political Representation in the

Pacific Islands." *Government & Opposition*, vol. 53, no. 3, 2018, pp. 542-68.

Bhabha, Homi. *The Location of Culture*. Routledge, 1994.

Kincaid, Jamaica. "In History." *Callaloo*, vol. 24, no. 2, 2001, pp. 620-26. *Project*

Muse, https://doi.org/10.1353/cal.2001.0097.

Murakami, Haruki. "As Concrete as Possible • Appetite in Literature." *The Wind-Up*

Bird Chronicle. Translated by Jay Rubin. Vintage, 1997, pp. 175-84.

Works Cited
Capitalizing Titles

Parts of speech that **are not** capitalized when they are in the middle of a title include:

- Articles (a, an, the):
  To Kill a Mockingbird

- Prepositions (against, as, between, in, of, to):
  The Merchant of Venice

- Coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet) to infinitives:
  How to Write a Resume

Works Cited

Formatting Titles for Non-Print Sources

Italics (whole works/container 1):

- Title of a television series

- Website

- Record album

Quotation Marks (shorter, specific works):

- Episode of the television series

- Article on website

- Song on an album

- Tweet

Works Cited
Formatting Titles for Print Sources

***Italics* for larger texts (novels, books, volumes of collected works):**
Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Eschholz, Paul, et al. *Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

***Quotation marks* for titles of shorter works (essays, short stories, poems):**
Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Fall of the House of Usher." *The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales*, edited by Chris Baldick, Oxford UP, 1992, pp. 85-101.

***Quotation marks* for titles of articles and *italics* for titles of periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers):**
Akcesme, Banu. "Fighting Back Against the Encroachment of Patriarchal Power on Female Domains in Wuthering Heights." *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, vol. 6, no. 5, 2017, pp. 27-40.

Works Cited
Books and Periodicals

Book

Malerman, Josh. *Inspection*. Del Rey, 2019.

Magazine (print)

Nicklin, Mary Winston. "How to go Wild in the French Riviera." *National Geographic,* 5 Aug. 2019, pp. 20-21.

Works Cited
Translation

If the focus is on the translation of a source, treat the translators as the authors:

Sullivan, Alan, and Timothy Murphy, translators. *Beowolf*. Edited by Sarah Anderson, Pearson, 2014.

Works Cited
Translation

If the focus is on the work rather than the translator, cite as you would any other book. Add "translated by" and follow with the name(s) of the translator(s):

Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

Works Cited
Film and TV

Emphasizing the creator of an entire series:

Whedon, Josh, creator. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Mutant
     Enemy, 1997-2003. *Hulu,*
     www.hulu.com/series/buffy-the-vampire-slayer.

Performance of an individual:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Performance by Sarah Michelle
     Geller. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003. *Hulu,*
     www.hulu.com/series/buffy-the-vampire-slayer.

Works Cited
Film and TV

Emphasizing a director:

Avatar. Directed by James Cameron. Twentieth Century
 Fox, 2009.

**Actors whose contributions are the focus of your
discussion:**

Avatar. Directed by James Cameron, performances by Sam
 Worthington, Zoe Saldena, Stephan Lang, Michelle
 Rodriguez, and Sigourney Weaver, Twentieth Century
 Fox, 2009.

Works Cited
Authors

One author:

McDiarmid, Lucy. *At Home in the Revolution: What Women Said and Did in 1916*. Royal Irish Academy, 2016.

Two authors:

Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. *The Crown of Columbus*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.

More than two authors, use et al.:

Charon, Rita, et al. *The Principles and Practices of Narrative Medicine*. Oxford UP, 2017.

Works Cited
Editors

One editor:

Nunberg, Geoffrey, editor. *The Future of the Book*. U of California P, 1996.

Two editors:

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar, editors. *The Female Imagination and the Modernist Aesthetic*. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, 1986.

Three or more editors:

Baron, Sabrina Alcorn, et al., editors. *Agents of Change: Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth L. Eisenstein.* U of Massachusetts P, 2007.

Works Cited
Essay in Collection or Chapter in Book

An essay in a collection:

Lodge, Anthony. "French is a Logical Language." *Language Myths,* edited by Laurie Bauer and Peter Trudgill, Penguin Books, 2017, pp. 23-31.

Chapter in a book:

Bould, Mark. "Speculative Fiction." *The Cambridge Companion to Twenty-First Century American Fiction*, edited by Joshua Miller, Cambridge UP, 2021, pp. 63–78.

Works Cited
Corporate Author

Institution, organization, or government agency reports published by a different entity:

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries.* Taylor and Francis, 1991.

When the organization is both the author and the publisher, start with the title, do not include an author, and list the organization as publisher:

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. National Endowment for the Arts, 2004.

Works Cited
Annotated Bibliographies

Annotated bibliographies **describe** or **evaluate sources** and **use succinct phrases**.

Example:

Moore, Nicole. *The Censor's Library: Uncovering the Lost History of Australia's Banned Books.* U of Queensland P, 2012.

Comprehensive history of Australian print censorship, with discussion of this history's implications for questions of transnationalism and the construction of the reader.

Works Cited
Citing Online Sources

- Follow the order for citations in general.

- If no author is found, use the title of the article or webpage.

- Use the first few words from the title.

- Only use accession date if content is likely to change.

Works Cited
Online Sources

Follow the same rules as though citing a print source but include the website URL.

With an Author:
Accession date is included because blogs can change.
Ciucci, Carolina. "What is Publishing Doing to Combat Censorship?"
      Book Riot, 27 July 2022,
      www.bookriot.com/how-publishing-is-combatting-censorship/.
      Accessed 27 July 2022.

Without an Author:
"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *Facing History & Ourselves*, 13
      Nov. 2019,
      www.facinghistory.org/universal-declaration-human-rights.
      Accessed 27 July 2022.

Works Cited
Online Sources

Scholarly Article:

Olakunle, George. "Alice Walker's Africa: Globalization and the Province of Fiction." *Comparative Literature*, vol. 53, no. 4, 2001, pp. 354-72. *JS* https://doi.org/10.2307/3593524.

Magazine Article:

Holub, Christian. "Toni Morrison, *Beloved* Author and Nobel Prize Winner, Dies at 88." *Entertainment Weekly*, 6 Aug. 2019, www.ew.com/books/2019/08/06/toni-morrison -beloved-author-nobel-prize-winner-dies/.

Works Cited
Online Sources

With publisher information:

"Materials for Teachers." *Academy of American Poets*,
     www.poets.org/materials-teachers. Accessed 27
     July 2022.
    (Note: Accession date is included since there is no
    publication date.)

Without publisher information:

Ellis, Lindsay. "Death, Personified." *YouTube*, uploaded by
     PBS Digital Studios, 24 Jan. 2019,
     www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vQjHILQ0OQ.

Works Cited in Examples

Chincholi, Abhinand. "How To Unleash The Potential Of AI Efficiently And Responsibly."
   Forbes, 16 Aug. 2023, https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/08/16/how-to-
   unleash-the-potential-of-ai-efficiently-and-responsibly/?sh=34979e7e4d6c.

—. "Using Technology In Education To Connect Physically And Digitally." *Forbes*, 27 Mar. 2023,
   https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/03/27/using-technology-in-education-
   to-connect-physically-and-digitally/?sh=40f03a365116.

"Climate is always changing. Why is climate change of concern now?" *The Royal Society*,
   https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/question-6/.

Lemery, Jay, and Paul Auerback. *Enviromedics: The Impact of Climate Change on Human
   Health.* Rowman and Littlefield, 2017.

Works Cited in Examples

McDougall, Walter A. *Promised Land, Crusader State: The American Encounter with the World since 1776.* Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

Nawab, Sarfaraj MD, and Asrin Khatun. "Exploring the Surveillance Culture: A Study of the Social Media Syndrome of the Present Day with Special Reference to George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four." *IUP Journal of English Studies*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2022, pp. 109-119.

Nickerson, Raymond S., et al. "Validity and Persuasiveness of Conditional Arguments." *The American Journal of Psychology*, vol. 132, no. 2, 2019, pp. 131-47.

"Online Learning in 2023 - What Is It and How Does It Work?" *Educations*, 2023, www.educations.com/study-guides/study-online/.

Peetz, David. "Visions of the Future." *The Realities and Futures of Work*, ANU Press, 2019, pp. 55–82. *JSTOR*, http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvq4c16w.8.

Works Cited in Examples

United States, Dept. of Education. "The Federal Role in Education," 15 June 2021, www2.ed.gov/about/overview/fed/role.html.

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MLA Resources

CWE Digital Dashboard

www.montclair.edu/center-for-writing-excellence/cwe-digital-dashboard/resources-for-writers/citing-sources/#MLA

MLA Style Website

www.mla.org/MLA-Style

Online-Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University

www.owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/

Remember

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