

MLA Citation Style: In-text Parenthetical References & Works Cited

MLA citation style has two components: an **in-text parenthetical reference** and a **Works Cited List**. The in-text citation and Works Cited List components are linked. That is, the in-text citation directs readers to a particular entry in the Works Cited List. The Works Cited List provides complete bibliographic information while the in-text citation provides the minimum amount of information necessary for readers to find the appropriate entry on the Works Cited List.

For print sources, the typical in-text citation will include the author's last name and page number; here is an example: (Gilman 765). Note that there is no comma, "p." "pg.," or "page" between the name and the number. If the author's last name is clear from context, the parenthetical reference will provide just the page number: (765).

Example: In "The Yellow Wallpaper," the narrator presents herself as necessarily compliant to her husband, John. The narrator asks, "If a physician of high standing, and one's own husband, assures friends and relatives that there is really nothing the matter with one but temporary nervous depression--a slight hysterical tendency--what is one to do?" (Gilman 765).

Works Cited List

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper." *Literature for Composition: Reading and Writing Arguments about Essays, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Ed. Sylvan Barnet, William Burto, and William E. Cain. 8th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007. 765-75. Print.

Kessler, Carol Farley. "Consider Her Ways: The Cultural Work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Pragmatopian Stories, 1908-1913." *Utopian and Science Fiction by Women*. Ed. Jane L. Donawerth and Carol A. Kolmerten. Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 1994. 126-136. Print.

Shumaker, Conrad. "'Too Terribly Good to Be Printed': Charlotte Gilman's 'The Yellow Wallpaper.'" *American Literature* 57 (1985): 588-99. Print.

Works Cited List Pointers:

- Entries are in alphabetical order.
- Entries are formatted using a hanging indent.
- Entries are double-spaced.
- Entries for articles or works from an anthology provide the complete page range (that is, not just the page you quoted from—that particular information goes in the in-text citation).

Formatting an Entry for a Work from an Anthology

Our course text book is considered an anthology, a collection of work written by a variety of authors. This means that you will be following the model for “a work from an anthology” to format in-text citations and Works Cited List entries for selections from this text.

Here is the basic pattern for the Works Cited List entry for a **short work (such as a poem or short story) from a print anthology**:

Last name of author of selection, First name. “Title of selection.” *Title of anthology*. Abbreviation Ed. or Comp. Name of Editor(s) or Compiler(s). Edition information (if other than a first edition). City of publication: name of publisher, date of publication of the anthology. Page range of the complete selection. Print.

Let’s look more closely at this pattern:

Last name of author of selection, First name. “Title of selection.” *Title of anthology*. Abbreviation Ed. or Comp. Name of Editor(s) or Compiler(s). City of publication: name of publisher, date of publication of the anthology. **Page range of the complete selection**. Print.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. “The Yellow Wallpaper.” *Literature for Composition: Reading and Writing Arguments about Essays, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Ed. Sylvan Barnet, William Burto, and William E. Cain. 8th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007. **765-75**. Print.

- Note that the highlighted information is specific to the selection itself. The other material is about the anthology.

Here is the pattern for the Works Cited List entry for a **longer work (such as a play) from a print anthology**:

Last name of author of selection, First name. *Title of selection*. *Title of anthology*. Ed. Name of Editor(s). Edition info (other than first edition). City of publication: name of publisher, date of publication of the anthology. Page range of the complete selection. Print.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. *Literature for Composition: Reading and Writing Arguments about Essays, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Ed.

Sylvan Barnet, William Burto, and William E. Cain. 8th ed. New York:
Pearson Longman, 2007. 1196-1249. Print.

For other types of sources, consult your handbook.