This handout gives examples of the style of documentation recommended by the MLA (Modern Language Association) and is based on the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. To see a template for each type of format and additional examples, refer to the online Mission College MLA Style Booklet available from the “Find Library Handouts” page of the Mission College Library Online Services webpage.

When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown: put periods, commas, and colons in the same places. Use one space after a colon, comma, and period. If a bibliographic citation is more than one line, use double spacing with a hanging indent (see examples below).

**WORKS CITED (BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS)**

All sources cited at the end of a paper are called bibliographic citations and are listed on a separate page with the heading *Works Cited*. This page follows the last page of your paper, and should be numbered.

Each source is listed alphabetically by the last name of the author or editor, or by the first word of the title if there is no author or editor. (Disregard articles “A”, “An” and “The”.) If there are two or more items by the same author, put them in order alphabetically by title. Use three dashes (---) to replace the author’s name on all entries following the first. Entries are double-spaced. The first line of each entry is not indented, but the rest of the entry is indented a half inch (this is called a hanging indentation).

**Book with a single author:**


**Periodical article:**


**Work in a collection**

Previously published work in a collection:

Article from a library database:
*Note*: If your instructor requires it, include the database article URL at the end of the citation.

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CITATIONS IN THE TEXT (IN-TEXT CITATIONS)
Citations in the text are a basic part of every research paper. Anyone reading your paper should be able to look up your sources and check them. Any time you use a direct quote, paraphrase something you have read, or use a specific idea or fact from your reading, you need to cite the source within the body of your paper.

MLA style uses parenthetical citations to refer the reader to the specific item in the "Works Cited" list. Citations are placed in the body of your paper, following the specific part of the text to which they apply. If the parenthetical citation is at the end of a sentence, place it before the period.

To cite a specific source put the author’s last name in the parenthetical reference. If there is no author listed, use the title in quotes. Abbreviate the title if it is longer than a noun phrase. If the author’s name is used in the sentence, do not repeat it in the parenthetical reference.

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Citing a specific page, fact, or quote: (French 25).
Citing a source with no author: ("Virginia Declaration").
Citing a source without page numbers: Smith reported a 45% increase this quarter.