The Owens Community College Writing Center's Quick Guide to MLA Citation
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Uses MLA 8th edition

In-Text Citation Basics

Your parenthetical (or in-text) citations within your paper link back to the Works Cited entries at the end of your paper by giving **enough information to tell** your readers

- **which source** from your Works Cited page they are looking at **and**
- **where in the source** the information can be found

It is usually best to reference the source in text by whatever starts the Work Cited entry (usually the **author's last name**) and include the **page number** (if present) at the end of the citation in parentheses (a parenthetical citation). MLA also allows writers to include both types of information in the parenthetical citation.

Examples (Highlights added for clarity):

Model 1: Author named in a signal phrase:
> Owen Grady, a notable dinosaur expert, states, "Dinosaurs have become popular lately" (5).

This example mentions the author's last name in the signal phrase and the page number in the parenthetical citation. Notice the location of the period.

Model 2: Author named in parentheses:
> One notable dinosaur expert states, "Raptors do not think of people as Alphas, but food" (Grady 17).

This example references the author and the page number in parentheses.

A work with two authors:
> Grant and Sattler share the results of their archaeological digs in hopes of bringing dinosaurs to life for everyone, not just scientists (55).

List the last names of both authors, either in a signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation.

A work with three or more authors:
> Hammond et al. have high hopes for the creation of a park where humans can safely watch dinosaurs in their natural habitats (57).

With three or more authors, list only the first author's name, followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others").

Author unknown:
> An interesting new article explains how the idea of releasing dinosaurs into the wild first came about ("Born Free to Live Free" 2).

For works written by an anonymous author or authors, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title in the parentheses.

Work without page numbers:

> Releasing dinosaurs into the wild became a viable option when government-run sanctuaries suffered from overcrowding and lack of funding (Jones et al., par. 2).

Many online sources do not have page numbers; thus, you cannot report them. It is essential to cite the author (or, if the author is anonymous, the title) in a signal phrase or parenthetical citation.

If the source has paragraph or section numbers, place a comma after the author or title (when using parentheses) and use the numbers after the abbreviation "par." or "sec." to report the location.

Organization or government as author:

> State officials report that "Many world-famous paleontologists—geologists who study fossils—began their careers as youngsters collecting fossils in their native Ohio" (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey 1).

Acknowledge the organization either in a signal phrase or in parentheses. When using parentheses, include all administrative units of the organization, separated by commas, and abbreviate commonly abbreviated terms.

Source quoted in another source (indirect source):

> In the book *Memoirs of the Jurassic World Catastrophe*, Owen Grady states, "Dinosaurs are clearly smarter than humans" (qtd. in Dearing 43).

When you are quoting text that you found quoted in another source, use the abbreviation "qtd. in" in the parenthetical reference. In this example, Dearing's book is the source on the Works Cited page, not Owen Grady.

Dictionary entry:

> According to *dictionary.com*, a hierarchy is "any system of persons or things ranked one above another" ("Hierarchy").

Because this definition did not have a specific author listed, we need to cite the title of the webpage, which is the word being defined. While the signal phrase, "According to *dictionary.com*" may not be strictly necessary, it starts the sentence to clarify for the reader that the definition is a dictionary definition, not a personally created definition.

Works Cited Models

Work on a Website:

Zoller, Matt Seitz. "Jurassic World." *RogerEbert.com,* Ebert Digital LLC, 10 June 2015,

       www.rogerebert.com/reviews/jurassic-world-2015. Accessed 27 Feb. 2018.

Elements:
- Author(s),
- title of work in "quotation marks",
- title of website in *italics*,
- publisher of website,
- date of publication or update,
- URL (remove http://),
- date of access.

Basic Format for a Book (Print) with One Author:

Brown, James. *Dinosaurs.* Jurassic, Inc., 2017.

Elements:
- Author,
- title in *italics,*
- publisher,
- date of publication.

Basic Format for a Book (Print) with Two or More Authors:

Jackson, Sarah, and Michael Smith. *Dinosaur World.* Jurassic, Inc., 2016.

Elements:
- First author's last name, first name,
- second author's first and last name (if more than two authors, use et al. instead)
- title in *italics,*
- publisher,
- date of publication.

Article in a Journal (Print):

Grant, Sam. "The History of Dinosaurs." *Prehistoric History,* vol. 21, no. 4, Jan. 2017, pp. 162-
      170.

Elements:
- Author (s),
- title of article in "quotation marks",
- title of article in *italics,*
- volume,
- issue number,
- date of publication,
- page numbers.

Article in an Online Magazine:

Nashawaty, Chris. "Jurassic World: EW Review." *Entertainment Weekly,* 10 June 2015,
      ew.com/article/2015/06/10/jurassic-world-review/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2018.

Elements:
- Author(s),
- title of article in "quotation marks",
- name of magazine in *italics,*
- date of publication or last update,
- pages (if any),
- URL (remove http://),
- date of access.

Journal Article Accessed Through Online Database:

Tarlach, Gemma. "When Dinosaurs Went Bad." *Discover,* vol. 38, no. 4, May 2017, pp. 66-68.
    EBSCOhost, web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=2&sid=1118faf1-d938-
    49c9-8226-5192ff8c1fe6%40sessionmgr101. Accessed 27 Feb. 2018.

Elements:
- Author(s),
- title of article in "quotation marks",
- title of journal in *italics,*
- volume,
- issue number,
- date of publication,
- page numbers,
- name of database in *italics*,
- DOI or URL (remove http://),
- date of access.

Work in an Anthology (Print):

Shepherd, Claire. "Dinosaurs Rule." *Dinosaurs: Start to Finish,* edited by Kevin Cook, W.W.
    Norton, 2017, pp. 23-31.

Elements;
- Author,
- title of work in "quotation marks",
- title of anthology in *italics,*
- name(s) of editor(s),
- publisher,
- year of publication,
- page numbers.