Modern Language Association (MLA) Documentation

MLA is often used in the humanities (except history) and the fine arts. For more MLA help, use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009), 7th ed., or visit the Writing Center.

Each time you cite a source, include a…
1) parenthetical reference
2) works cited entry

Step 1: Parenthetical References
Place a parenthetical reference at the end of each sentence that contains a borrowed concept or data that is not common knowledge. Cite both quotations and paraphrases.

Formatting: In parentheses, put the author's last name and the page number(s) on which the cited information appears. The period goes after the parentheses.
> Ex. Pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (Cawthorne 12).

If you include the author's name in the body of the sentence, you may omit it from the parenthetical reference.
> Ex. Nigel Cawthorne explains that pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (12).

Remember to cite borrowed information even when you don't quote the source directly.
> Ex. Pirates were often hung after just a few years of marauding at sea (Cawthorne 12).

Sources without page numbers: If the source doesn't have page numbers, simply omit them.
Webpages without authors. If the source doesn't list an author, use the webpage title in quotes instead. If the source lacks a webpage title, use the website title (italicized) instead.

Step 2: Works Cited Page (see example on reverse)
At the end of the paper, add a page entitled "Works Cited" where you list information about each source cited in your text.

Formatting: List entries alphabetically by author's last name. Double-space each line. Place the first line of each entry flush with the left margin and indent subsequent lines. Italicize titles of major works, like books, websites, films, and journals. Put quotes around the titles of shorter works, like articles, webpages, and short poems.

Missing information: Some electronic sources may not list all the information a standard MLA citation asks for. If an author's name isn't listed, omit it and start the citation with the title of the work. To note other missing information, use the following abbreviations:
> No publisher listed: n.p.
> No publication date listed: n.d.
> No page numbers listed: n. pag.

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Works Cited

Print book. Author last name, First name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Print.

Electronic book. Print book entry. *Database or Website Title*. Web. Date accessed.

Journal article in print. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* volume.issue (year): article page #s. Print.

Journal article from an online database Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* volume.issue (year): article page #s or n. pag. *Database Name*. Web. Date accessed.

Online newspaper or magazine article. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title* Publication date: page #s or n.pag. *Database Name*. Web. Date accessed.

Part of an anthology or a chapter in a print collection of essays. Author last name, First name. "Chapter Title." *Book Title*. Ed. Editor Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, year. page #s. Print.

Personal or professional webpage. Author last name, First name. "Webpage Title." *Website Title*. Publisher or N.p., Date published or n.d. Web. Date accessed.

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