MLA 8 Works Cited Entries and In-Text Citations Walkthrough

Example of a works cited citation in MLA format:

- Author.
  - Last, First, and First Last (if there are two authors)
  - If there are three or more authors use “et al.” after the first author
  - It is acceptable to use usernames as author names if necessary
  - End this part with a period
- "Title."/Title
  - Use quotes if it is part of a larger work
  - Italicize if it stands alone (without a container)
  - End this part with a period
- Title of the Container,
  - Containers are what “holds” the work. For example a website holds an article and book holds a chapter
  - This part needs to be italicized
  - End the this part with a comma
- Other contributors,
  - Anyone who contributed to the work (producer, editor, translator, illustrator) is an “other contributor”
  - Include their role and the word “by”
    - produced by Eric Wolf
  - End this part with a comma
- Version,
  - Use “ed.” To indicate the edition
    - 2nd ed.
    - Extended ed.
    - Director’s Cut ed.

From the Writing Center
at the Academic Resource Center

John Tyler Community College
○ End with a comma

● Number,
  ○ The number distinguish parts of a set
  ○ For volumes and issue numbers abbreviate with:
    ■ vol. 2 no. 5
  ○ For everything else, spell it out
    ■ Season 4, episode 1,
  ○ End with a comma

● Publisher’s name,
  ○ The publisher is the company responsible for the work
  ○ If the publisher is the same as the title of the container, do not include it
  ○ End this part with a comma

● Date of publication,
  ○ Abbreviate months that longer than four letters
  ○ There are no set rules on the order of month or day. However, each citation in your work cited page must follow the same order
    ■ Oct. 11, 2018
    ■ 11 Oct. 2018
  ○ End this part with a comma

● Location.
  ○ Location is where the information was found
  ○ For printed articles or books use the page number
  ○ Use “p.” for a single page; use “pp.” for multiple pages
    ■ p. 20
    ■ pp. 20-30
  ○ For websites include the full url
  ○ Remove http:// or https://
  ○ Remove the hyper link
    ■ www.jtcc.edu/services/writing-center
Example of an in-text citation in MLA format:
Most of the time, an in-text citation will involve the author’s last name and any relevant page numbers. An in-text citation will appear at the end of the sentence in parentheses and followed by a period. Using the example above, this should look like (Greene 89).

With the author’s name:
- If one author: (Greene).
- If two authors: (Greene and Lidinsky).
- If there are three or more authors: (Greene et al.).

With page numbers:
- If one page: (Greene 361)
- If two or more pages: (Greene 361-380)

With the author’s name included in the preceding sentence, you don’t need it in the parenthesis:
- Greene explains that “there are two main forms of argument: deductive and inductive” (226).

When the author is not provided, use the next piece of information that appears in the citation on the Works Cited page (usually the “title”):
- (“The Basics of MLA Style” 226)