MLA Style Guide

Reference citation in the text should be as follows. The citation should be as brief as possible while directing the reader to the correct reference.

Single author
Simply use Name followed by any relevant page number: (Marcuse 197)
In text: Tannen has argued this point (178–85)

More than one author with same name
Add the first initial (or full first name if initial is the same): (A. Patterson 183; L. Patterson 230)

Two or three authors
Give all author names: (Rabking, Greenberg, and Olander vii)

More than three authors
Follow the bibliographic entry: (Lauter et al. 2425) or all last names if given

Books

A Book by a Single Author

An Anthology or a Compilation

Two or More Books by the Same Author
(Use three hyphens followed by period and then title, or comma and ed. … if necessary)


A Book by Two or More Authors

If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add et al. (“and others”), or you may give all names in full in the order in which they appear on the title page.

Or


Repeat names in full if the same person is part of a different authorship. Do not use three hyphens unless the total authorship is the same.

*A Book by a Corporate Author*

*A Work in an Anthology*

Often the works in anthologies have been published before. If you wish to inform your reader of the date when a previously published piece other than a scholarly article first appeared, you may follow the title of the piece with the year of original publication and a period.


*An Article in a Reference Book*

*An Introduction, a Preface, a Foreword or an Afterword*

If the introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword has a title, give the title, enclosed in quotation marks, immediately before the name of the part.


*An Anonymous Book*

*A Translation*
A Book Published in a Second or Subsequent Edition

A Multivolume Work

If you are using one volume of a multivolume work state the number of the volume:

A Book in a Series

A Republished Book

A Book with Multiple Publishers

A Government Publication

The Published Proceedings of a Conference
An Unpublished Dissertation

A Published Dissertation

Journals and Newspapers

An Article in a Journal with Continuous Pagination

An Article in a Journal that pages each issue separately

Some journals do not use volume numbers at all, numbering issues only. Treat the issue numbers of such journals as you would volume numbers.

An Article in a Newspaper


An Article in a Magazine

An Anonymous Article

A Special Issue

A Legal Source
**Electronic Publications**

**Basic Entry Document from Internet Site**

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**Publications on CD-ROM, Diskette or Magnetic Tape**
It is important to state the publication medium as different formats may be different.


**E-mail Communication**
Harner, James L. E-mail to the author. 20 Aug. 2002.