MLA Citations

WHAT IS THE LIST OF WORKS CITED? It is a list of all the sources (books, periodicals, films, pamphlets, etc.) that have contributed ideas and information to your paper. This list, also known as a bibliography, is placed at the end of your paper, term paper, essay, etc.

WHY IS SUCH A LIST NEEDED? It a) gives credit to those whose ideas or facts you are using in your paper; b) indicates the variety of sources you used to gather information and ideas; and c) provides the reader with leads, or suggestions, to other writings on the subject covered in your paper.

HOW IS THIS LIST PREPARED? There are several “style manuals” that describe and give examples of recommended formats for a bibliography, or a list of works cited. All of them use the same basic elements which are needed to identify a book, periodical, or any other source. Be sure to check with your instructor to find out his or her preference. The example of a list of works cited below follows the format described in the MLA Style Manual* (PE 1112 A28 Ref.).

Please notice that the list is in alphabetical order by author (a title is listed first when the author is unknown, or when the citation is for a non-print source). The bracketed information is not to be included. It has been included here to indicate the proper format for a variety of sources. More information about the format can be found in the MLA Style Manual (PE 1112 A28 Ref.).

COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY

[Book - one author]

[newspaper article - author unknown]


Samuelson, Robert J. “Our Computerized Society.” Newsweek 9 Sept. 1985:73 [magazine article]


Spielberg, Steven. Telephone Interview. 30 Aug. 1990 [interview]


PARENTHELITICAL REFERENCES

WHAT ARE PARENTHELITICAL REFERENCES? Parenthetical references refer the reader to specific pages in a book, magazine or other source from which quotations, or facts are taken. They are used to provide additional information without breaking the logical development of the thoughts in your paper. Parenthetical references are used in place of footnotes.

WHY ARE PARENTHELITICAL REFERENCES NEEDED? Any borrowed information in your paper must be acknowledged. Parenthetical references provide the exact source of the quotation (somebody else’s words), or of the
facts that were gathered by someone else. They give added authority to your paper. They also provide the reader with leads to other sources and permit the reader to verify the sources that you used to come to your conclusions.

HOW ARE PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES PREPARED? Parenthetical references are brief references, enclosed by parentheses, within the body of your paper. They refer the reader to the list of works cited. The parenthetical reference usually includes the author’s last name and the page number. The reader can then turn to the list of works cited to find complete publishing information.

Here’s a typical parenthetical reference:

“American society is in love with the computer” (Brod 2).

If you include the author’s name in a sentence you don’t need to include it in the reference, as in this example:

Brod maintains that “American society is in love with the computer” (2).

Here are some other examples, some of which are direct quotes and some of which are paraphrases.

In the 19th century, George Boole developed symbolic logic (Sippi 1045). [author’s name in reference]

As Clark Norton has written, “If you’re thinking there must be laws that will protect you against such abuses, don’t count on it” (126). [author’s name in text, short quotation]

Siegel & Markoff offer this comment on modern surveillance systems: [two authors]

Today Americans live in a state of fragile freedom. Wide-scale repression is still unacceptable, yet surveillance technology has made tremendous strides during the past decade. High-tech systems have been developed that can and are being used to monitor our lives in ways never imagine by George Orwell. (41-42) [quotation of more than 4 typed lines]
It may be true that “there will never come a time when machines can do without us” (Roszak, Person/Planet 230).

Computers are used to prevent students who have refused to register for the draft from receiving student aid (“Computers”).

One of the most well-known computers is a very likable machine called HAL (2001: a Space Odyssey).

In 1973 the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare warned against the possibility of secret record-keeping systems (41).

Computers don’t think; they simply perform mathematical sequences (Vartanian 3:145).