MLA Documentation

This is a brief guide to the Modern Language Association (MLA) rules for documentation. It covers only some of the commonly cited materials. For additional information and more in-depth guidelines on MLA documentation and research paper writing please consult:


OR Ask at the The Desk.
You can also visit MLA online at http://www.mla.org/style

When to Cite
Whenever you use another’s work in your writing you must provide documentation. MLA documentation uses parenthetical citations within the text linked to an alphabetical list of full citations at the end of the paper. Not citing the words or ideas of another is plagiarism; which is a direct violation of the Academic Honor Code with severe implications and penalties.

In-text Citations
Each citation within the text must contain a full citation at the end of the paper. In-text citations usually contain only the author’s last name and the page reference.

If you use the author’s name in the sentence, then the page number need to be in parentheses at the end of the sentence:
Frost once said that nothing gold can stay (272).

If you are referencing the author, but do not use their name in the sentence:
The poem contrasts the colors of green and gold (Frost 272).

Bibliographic Citations
Books
Last name, First name. Title of Book. Editor, translator or compiler. Edition used. Volume Number. Series name. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page Numbers. Medium of publication.

Single author example:
Periodicals

Example:

Electronic Publications
Article from an Online Database

Example of an article retrieved from an online database:

Online Resources for more information about MLA style

FSU Library’s MLA Citation Guide: http://guides.lib.fsu.edu/content.php?pid=82097&sid=609265

Long Island University links to citation styles: http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm

The OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Perdue MLA formatting and style guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/