



MLA Definitions

@ DOROTHY H. HOOVER LIBRARY

Citation

- refers to all materials (books, journal articles, essays, web pages, etc.) used in the preparation of an essay, paper, or other forms of academic writing.
- **Note:** This term is sometimes used to describe a **Parenthetical Reference**.

Parenthetical References (or In-Text References, or Citations)

- are used in the MLA style in the body of the text to acknowledge information, ideas or quotations that have been borrowed from another source.
- are placed in brackets after quoted material in the text of a work and feature the:
 - **author's name** (or title of cited work if no author is listed),
 - **page number** (if page numbers are used in the cited work).
- must have a corresponding entry in the **Works Cited** list to provide the information required by law to quote safely from other people's works.
- **See:** MLA Style Guide: Parenthetical References for more information.
- **Do not confuse with:**

Footnotes or Endnotes:

- a different citation method used in the Chicago Style and generally not in the MLA style. After a quotation is used in the body of the text, a number is assigned to the quotation. The corresponding number is printed with the citation at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the paper (endnote). Consequent quotations are numbered consecutively.
- these can be used in a paper using MLA Parenthetical References. Use them only to explain or comment on points that are worthy of inclusion, but seem out of place in the framework of an essay or paper; or to include references to other works, relating to information in the body of an essay or paper.

Works Cited (or References, or Reference List)

- is a list of books, articles, and any other sources which are **directly cited** in the creation of a newly composed document,
- are arranged alphabetically by authors' last name,
- provide all the basic bibliographic information needed to borrow quotations legally or paraphrase ideas from other sources.
- **Do not confuse with:**

Bibliography:

- a list of all the materials consulted in order to prepare a paper, even if you have not directly quoted from these information resources.