MLA Citations: Two Parts of Every Citation

In text (used in and throughout the paper)       Works Cited Page (at the end of the paper)

unusual improvisational ability as well as technical mastery. As
biographer Laurence Bergreen points out, Armstrong easily reached
difficult high notes, the F’s and G’s that stymied other trumpeters
(248). His innovative singing style also featured “scat,” a technique
that “place[s] emphasis on the human voice as an additionally
important component in jazz music” (Anderson 329). According to
one popular anecdote, Armstrong invented scat during a recording
session; mid-song, he dropped his lyrics sheet and— not wanting to
disrupt a great take—began to improvise (Edwards 619). Eventually
Armstrong’s innovations became the standard, as more and more
jazz musicians took their cue from his style.

In-text Citation General Guidelines

When the author is named in the sentence, you do not need to repeat the author’s name in the parenthetical reference.

Wordsworth states that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

When the author is not named in the sentence, both the author’s name and page number are placed in the parenthetical reference.

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Even when paraphrasing the author’s words, you still must give the page number where the information or ideas appear and mention the author’s name in the sentence or citation.

Wordsworth extensively explores the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

When you are citing an indirect source—i.e., using information or a quotation from your source that itself is borrowed from another source—you give both the name of the person being quoted and the author of the source.

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don’t do that well"
(qtd. in Weisman 259).

When citing a source that has no named author, use a shortened version of the title in place of the author’s name in the parenthetical reference.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America, likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . .” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).
To create an accurate MLA citation on your reference page, you need to locate a book or website with the MLA guidelines (see list below), determine what kind of source you are using (e.g., a book, a journal article, a magazine article, a website), and then follow the guidelines to arrange the available publication information from your source.

**Title page:**

- Title: Trouble with Physics
- Subtitle: The Rise of String Theory, the Fall of a Science, and What Comes Next
- Author: Lee Smolin

**Copyright page:**

- *Copyright © 2008 by Lee Smolin, All Rights Reserved*
- *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*
- *Smolin, Lee, date.*
  - The trouble with physics: the rise of string theory, the fall of a science, and what comes next / Lee Smolin. p. cm.
  - Includes bibliographical references and index.
  - 530.14—dc22 200607335
  - Printed in the United States of America
  - Book design by Robert Overholzer
  - Illustrations by Michael Pendragon

For example, here is the guideline for a single author book that you would use for the source above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s last name</th>
<th>Auth. first name</th>
<th>Title: Subtitle (in italics, first letter of all principle words capitalized)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Publication year**

**Where You Can Find the Updated MLA Guidelines**

- MLA.org online Handbook: [http://www.mlahandbook.org/private/handbook](http://www.mlahandbook.org/private/handbook)
- Email: writingcenter@sbcc.edu  Password: sbccwriting

*available in the Writing Center, the Luria Library, and the bookstore*