# MLA 9 cheat sheet

MLA Handbook (9th ed.) and the MLA Style Center, “Formatting a Research Paper.”

## THE PAPER

| | |
|---|---|
| **Margins** | 1 inch on all sides. Style Center |
| **Font** | One readable font, such as Times New Roman 12. Italics must look different from regular type. Style Center |
| **Spacing** | Double-spaced throughout, heading to last entry. No extra space between paragraphs. Style Center |
| **Header** | Last name and page number, top right, 1/2 inch from the top of every page: Reyes 3. Style Center |
| **Heading** | No title page. Page 1, top left: your name, instructor, course, date (2 November 2026). Style Center |
| **Title** | Centered, title case. Not bold, italic or underlined. Style Center |
| **Paragraphs** | First line indented 1/2 inch. Left-aligned, ragged right. Style Center |
| **Block quote** | More than four lines of prose: indent 1/2 inch, no quotation marks, citation after the period. MLA Handbook |
| **Works Cited** | New page, “Works Cited” centered. Alphabetical by first word. 1/2 inch hanging indent. Style Center |

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Author and page, no comma, before the period. Name the author in your sentence and only the page goes in parentheses.

MLA Handbook

| | |
|---|---|
| **One author** | (Walker 112) |
| **Two authors** | (Hershner and Chervin 75) |
| **Three or more** | (Aron et al. 350) |
| **No author: short title** | (“About Sleep”) |
| **No page numbers** | (Bernstein) |

## WORKS CITED ENTRIES MLA HANDBOOK, CORE ELEMENTS

**Book**

Walker, Matthew. *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*. Scribner, 2017.

**Chapter in an edited book**

Aron, Laurent, et al. “Culinary Arts: Talent and Their Development.” *The Psychology of High Performance: Developing Human Potential into Domain-Specific Talent*, edited by Rena F. Subotnik et al., American Psychological Association, 2019, pp. 345-59, https://doi.org/10.1037/0000120-016.

**Journal article**

Hershner, Shelley D., and Ronald D. Chervin. “Causes and Consequences of Sleepiness among College Students.” *Nature and Science of Sleep*, vol. 6, 2014, pp. 73-84, https://doi.org/10.2147/NSS.S62907.

**Newspaper article**

Lewin, Tamar. “Disability Requests Reflect Changes in SAT Procedure.” *The New York Times*, 8 Nov. 2003.

**Web page**

Bernstein, Mark. “10 Tips on Writing the Living Web.” *A List Apart*, 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving/.

**YouTube video**

Walker, Matt. “Sleep Is Your Superpower | Matt Walker | TED.” *YouTube*, uploaded by TED, 3 June 2019, www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MuIMqhT8DM.

**Film**

*Lady Bird*. Directed by Greta Gerwig, A24, 2017.

**ChatGPT or other AI**

“Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald” prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

- Three or more authors: the first, then et al., in the text and in Works Cited.
- A DOI is written as a link: https://doi.org/...

MLA Handbook