

MLA Citations for Works Cited Pages

by Jill Sebacher

These examples are based on the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*; these rules went into effect in April of 2009.

This list will grow, and the website will be subsequently updated, so keep checking back for expanded editions of this document. Happy citing 😊

Print Sources

[An Entire Book](#) This entry will also help you with internal citations and modifying quotes using brackets.

[A Book with Two Authors](#) This entry also includes information on how to note subsequent editions of books along with an internal citation example.

An Entire Book

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:

Rukeyser, Muriel. *The Life of Poetry*. Ashfield: Paris Press, 1996. Print.

What is this information?

Rukeyser, Muriel. *The Life of Poetry*. Ashfield: Paris Press, 1996. Print.

Author's name in the following format: last name, first name

The book title, which must appear in italics

The city of publication

The book's publisher

The year that the book was published

The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this book:

“The poetic image is not a static thing. It lives in time, as does the poem. [...] And if [the image's] first word begins the poem, it has the role of putting into motion all the course of images and music of the entire work [...]” (Rukeyser 33).

What is this information? What are those weird bracketed things?

“The poetic image is not a static thing. It lives in time, as does the poem. [...] And if [the image's] first word begins the poem, it has the role of putting into motion all the course of images and music of the entire work [...]” (Rukeyser 33).

The ellipsis mark in brackets here lets the reader of my paper know that I skipped one or more sentences that appeared after “It lives in time, as does the poem.”

In the original sentence “its” appeared here, and I changed this word to “the image’s” to make my sentence’s meaning more clear. The brackets around this phrase let the reader of my paper know that I changed the phrasing of the sentence. You can also add words/phrases to a quoted sentence by using this technique.

The ellipsis mark in brackets here lets the reader of my paper know that the sentence continued on after the word “work” but that I didn’t include the rest of the sentence in my quote.

This is the book author’s last name.

This is the page of the book on which I found this quote.

A Book with Two Authors

How the entry should appear on a Works Cited page:

Jason, Philip K., and Allan B. Lefcowitz. *Creative Writer's Handbook*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1994. Print.

What is this information?

Jason, Philip K., and Allan B. Lefcowitz. *Creative Writer's Handbook*. 2nd ed.
Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1994. Print.

Authors' names in the following format: last name of first author listed on title page followed by that author's first name; the first name followed by last name for the second author listed on the book's title page

The book title, which must appear in italics

When a book is in a subsequent edition, you must let the reader know. In this case, "2nd ed." indicates that this book is in its second edition. A revised edition would be abbreviated to Rev. ed.

The city of publication

The book's publisher

The year that the book was published

The medium of publication (Print means that you actually held the source in its printed form.)

An example of an internal citation (a.k.a. parenthetical reference) for this book:

"Though the writing process itself can begin anywhere, we are beginning the discussion of fiction with plot because plot is the vehicle that carries all the other elements. Like a sentence and love, you should know a plot when you see one—though you may be deceived" (Jason and Lefcowitz 174).

Notice that you must include both of the authors' last names—Jason and Lefcowitz for the above book—in the internal citation for a book with two authors; also cite the page number on which the quote can be found, 174 in this case.