There are a variety of different style guides for writing. The MLA format is the format most often used in English courses. MLA publishes the *MLA Handbook*, most recently in 2016, detailing all of the different types of works available. The guide is found in libraries. Today, there are a vast array of published formats from social media, journals, and video, to name just a few.

There are two essential types of citation. The in-text, or parenthetical citations, which are provided in parentheses within the body of a text and the works-cited list provided at the end of a work.

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS**

In-text citations are used in your writing to give credit to direct quotations or ideas that are not common knowledge. For example, the calendar week has seven days is information that an average person is expected to have, thereby it does not need to be cited. Ideas that are unique to a specific field or thinker should be cited.

The citation format is brief, so as not to interrupt the flow of information for the reader. Citations include the author and page number, unless the author is named in the text.

As early as 1854 the nation was being warned against becoming “tripped up by its own traps, ruined by luxury and heedless expense” (Thoreau 297).

or

Henry David Thoreau warned citizens as early as 1854 the nation was being warned against becoming “tripped up by its own traps, ruined by luxury and heedless expense” (297).

If you’re working with video that has a runtime, include the counter. (00:1:25- 00:2:15)
WORKS-CITED LIST

In order to cite sources in your works-cited list, you will need the following information:

1. Author.
2. Title of the source.
3. Title of the container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

The information is provided in the order given above. An element may be omitted if it is not relevant to the work being documented. Each element is separated by the punctuation shown unless it is the final element, which always ends with a period.

The title of complete works is in italics. Additional examples of texts that require italics are: albums, collected works, web sites. A shorter piece that is part of a whole is put into quotation marks. The title of a magazine is in italics, but the article title is in quotation marks. Additional examples of texts that require quotation marks are: songs, poems, short stories, web article.

A **container** is a larger work that contains multiple, independent works. The title of the container is usually italicized. Examples of containers include: an *anthology* that contains a collection of essays, poems, songs, short stories, articles, or other smaller works; a *periodical* or *magazine*, which contain articles or literary contributions; a *website*, which contains articles, posts, and other kinds of content.

SOME COMMON EXAMPLES

Here are some examples of entries that commonly appear in a list of Works Cited. Refer to the full edition of the MLA Handbook for full explanations, as well as examples of documenting other types of works and information.

**Book:**


**Periodical:**

**Web Site:**


**Book with a Contributing Translator:**


**Short Story in an Anthology:**


**Video, Film, or Television:**


**Untitled sources:**

**Examples:** some artworks, interviews, forum comments, and reviews. In the position for the title of the source, provide a generic description of the source, neither italicized nor placed in quotation marks. For interviews, treat the person being interviewed as the author.