

# Writing: In-Text Citations and Works Cited (MLA Writing Format)

MLA Format, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Website:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html) OR <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/>

When teaching my own children to use **in-text citations**, I err on the side of caution and *overdo* it. My reasoning for this is so they completely understand the *how-to* as well as the *purpose* of in-text citations and do not make beginner mistakes. I think of it as a child learning to write their name – at first, their letters may be over-exaggerated in size, but then with practice, they tone the size down.

*Please note that there are MANY details and, of course, exceptions involved in using in-text citations. This document is intended to provide a general guideline.*

First, here is an example of being overly detailed-**Author Last Name pg.#-for each in-text citation**. All the in-text citations are from the literature book with the exception of the one Scripture.

First, Crusoe's discontentment leads him to search for adventures. Similar to many, Crusoe is not satisfied with his life; instead, he seeks to roam the world and have great adventures contrary to his friend's and family's advice (Defoe 5). He insists that he "would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea" (Defoe 5). Crusoe's constant search for adventure drives him to abandon his family, which is not an admirable action. Crusoe is warned that he should settle down and be thankful for what he has (Defoe 5). Nevertheless, ignoring this advice, he leaves. He boards a ship that sinks but luckily, survives (Defoe 12-13). Later, Crusoe sets out looking for a way to London from a local captain, who rejects him upon hearing the story of his last voyage (Defoe 14). At this point, Crusoe could have taken this as a sign and gone home, but instead, he embarks to London setting him on a path to being stranded (Defoe 14). These actions present Crusoe as spoiled, which causes him to be an unlikable character. Then, after his ship sinks again, karma catches up with Crusoe and he washes up on a deserted island (Defoe 38). After 28 years of mostly being alone, Crusoe is saved and returns home, starting a family (Defoe 240). Nonetheless, Crusoe still craves adventure. So once again, he leaves his family (his wife is now dead) and sets off to the island where he was previously stranded. Crusoe repeats the dishonorable act of abandoning his family because he fails to be content with what he has. Additionally, Crusoe has a Bible with him on the island and claims he is a Christian (Defoe 149). However, he does not seem to follow much of what he reads as he makes the same mistakes many times. Proverbs 26:11 compares this type of man to an animal by saying, "As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly" (AMPC). This lack of inner transformation does not make Crusoe admirable. Crusoe is discontented and never learns from his foolish adventures; this is not a likable or admirable character trait.

This way of being overly detailed with the in-text citations is fantastic for the writer just learning how to do this or for the struggling writer. However, it is not *technically* correct. BUT it certainly gets the point across!

**Scribbr explains in-text citations well.**

**Consecutive Citations of the Same Source**

If you cite the same source repeatedly within a paragraph, you can include the full citation the first time you cite it, then just the page number for subsequent citations. You can do this as long as it remains clear what source you're citing. If you cite something else in between or start a new paragraph, reintroduce the full citation again to avoid ambiguity. \*\*\*If in doubt, always cite sources in FULL.

**So then, the above paragraph's in-text citations look like this:**

First, Crusoe's discontentment leads him to search for adventures. Similar to many, Crusoe is not satisfied with his life; instead, he seeks to roam the world and have great adventures contrary to his friend's and

family's advice (Defoe 5). He insists that he "would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea" (5). Crusoe's constant search for adventure drives him to abandon his family, which is not an admirable action. Crusoe is warned that he should settle down and be thankful for what he has (5). Nevertheless, ignoring this advice, he leaves. He boards a ship that sinks but luckily, survives (12-13). Later, Crusoe sets out looking for a way to London from a local captain, who rejects him upon hearing the story of his last voyage (14). At this point, Crusoe could have taken this as a sign and gone home, but instead, he embarks to London setting him on a path to being stranded (14). These actions present Crusoe as spoiled, which causes him to be an unlikable character. Then, after his ship sinks again, karma catches up with Crusoe and he washes up on a deserted island (38). After 28 years of mostly being alone, Crusoe is saved and returns home, starting a family (240). Nonetheless, Crusoe still craves adventure. So once again, he leaves his family (his wife is now dead) and sets off to the island where he was previously stranded. Crusoe repeats the dishonorable act of abandoning his family because he fails to be content with what he has. Additionally, Crusoe has a Bible with him on the island and claims he is a Christian (149). However, he does not seem to follow much of what he reads as he makes the same mistakes many times. Proverbs 26:11 compares this type of man to an animal by saying, "As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly" (AMPC). This lack of inner transformation does not make Crusoe admirable. Crusoe is discontented and never learns from his foolish adventures; this is not a likable or admirable character trait.

**It does become trickier as the sources change.** It's not rocket science, BUT it is just one more detail the students must pay attention to and NOT FORGET to do. Regarding AMPC – this is the Bible translation used. The in-text citation does not include the exact reference since that is used in the sentence itself.

Here is an example of a simple paragraph where the sources change. This is part of a paragraph from my son's *The Hiding Place* paper. As their papers become more complex, their sources will vary more and more.

Some people will argue that Nollie makes the right choice in telling the Nazis that Annaliese is Jewish. Nollie believes God will protect Annaliese if she tells the truth (Ten Boom 127). Amazingly, she is right, and Annaliese is rescued (Ten Boom 127). However, this support is inadequate because while perhaps this is an answer to Nollie's prayer, this could easily just be a coincidence. It is not right to risk someone's life even though you believe God will protect them. Nollie gambles with Annaliese's life and had no authority to take that risk. Others will argue that choosing what commandments to keep and which ones to break is unacceptable. God gave the Ten Commandments (NIV Exod. 20), and as Christians, we are to obey them all. Regardless, this support is also inadequate because the Bible is full of stories where even God makes exceptions and honors those who lie, which clearly breaks the ninth commandment. As stated earlier, Rehab was blessed when she lied to save the Hebrew spies (NIV Josh. 2). Nollie clearly makes the wrong decision and breaks her trust with Annaliese. There is no doubt that neither of these arguments are valid as Nollie should have lied to protect Annaliese, who had entrusted her safety to the Ten Booms, but that trust was broken (Ten Boom 126-127).

Vs.

Some people will argue that Nollie makes the right choice in telling the Nazis that Annaliese is Jewish. Nollie believes God will protect Annaliese if she tells the truth (Ten Boom 127). Amazingly, she is right, and Annaliese is rescued (127). However, this support is inadequate because while perhaps this is an answer to Nollie's prayer, this could easily just be a coincidence. It is not right to risk someone's life even though you believe God will protect them. Nollie gambles with Annaliese's life and had no authority to take that risk. Others will argue that choosing what commandments to keep and which ones to break is unacceptable. God gave the Ten Commandments (NIV Exod. 20), and as Christians, we are to obey them all. Regardless, this support is also inadequate because the Bible is full of stories where even God makes exceptions and honors those who lie, which clearly breaks the ninth commandment. As stated earlier, Rehab was blessed when she lied to save the Hebrew spies (Josh. 2). Nollie clearly makes the wrong decision and breaks her trust with

Annaliese. There is no doubt that neither of these arguments are valid as Nollie should have lied to protect Annaliese, who had entrusted her safety to the Ten Booms, but that trust was broken (**Ten Boom 126-127**).

**Notice the Differences:** The first in-text citation has the author's last name and page number. The next in-text citation is from the same source so now, just including the page number is required. Then, there are two in-text citations from the Bible and then one more from the author again. For this one, because it has another source in between, the author's last name must be included again. For the Scripture references, because an exact Scripture verse is not quoted, no specific translation is needed, **HOWEVER**, if you are referencing a book of the Bible in a paper, you are using a specific translation. So, the best practice is to go ahead and include the translation you are using. Including the translation in the next Biblical citation is not needed as long as the same translation is being used. More on this below.

### **Direct Quoting Scripture**

If the **same translation is used**, it is only required to include the exact translation in the first in-text citation.

First, there is a hierarchy of commands. Some commandments are more important than others. The value of Annaliese's life outweighs lying and Nollie should have lied to protect her. Even Jesus breaks the law and still heals people on the Sabbath. He asks the crowd, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" (**NIV Luke 6:9**). If Annaliese would have died, Nollie would have been responsible for her destruction. Saving her life is more important than telling the truth. David also breaks the law so he and his men can eat while running from Saul. Scripture states, "He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests" (**Matt. 12:4**). Starving to death accomplishes nothing, and they make the right choice by eating the sacred bread. Unfortunately for Nollie, she makes the wrong choice. Some commands outweigh others. In Nollie's case, she has the duty to keep Annaliese safe and should have lied to do so.

Vs.

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### **If a different translation is used...**

First, there is a hierarchy of commands. Some commandments are more important than others. The value of Annaliese's life outweighs lying and Nollie should have lied to protect her. Even Jesus breaks the law and still heals people on the Sabbath. He asks the crowd, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" (**NIV Luke 6:9**). If Annaliese would have died, Nollie would have been responsible for her destruction. Saving her life is more important than telling the truth. David also breaks the law so he and his men can eat while running from Saul. Scripture states, "He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat" (**NLT Matt. 12:4**). Starving to death accomplishes nothing, and they make the right choice by eating the

sacred bread. Unfortunately for Nollie, she makes the wrong choice. Some commands outweigh others. In Nollie's case, she has the duty to keep Annaliese safe and should have lied to do so.

### Books of *The Bible* Abbreviations

#### **In-Text Citations for Sources without Page Numbers & WITH an Author – Such as a Website**

Unlike Mr. Collin's proposal, Darcy's offer is out of a position of passion for Elizabeth. However, a marriage between the two would be very improper for the period and cause significant gossip in the community. Darcy's class compared to Elizabeth's is a constant theme in his proposal as well as his sense of superiority. This is a crucial factor because historical records explain, "Marriage could potentially mix social classes, which was viewed by some as a HUGE societal sin" (McCabe). Marriage proposals like the one between Darcy and Elizabeth were usually made against the will of the wealthy family (Vatuna). Back then, what the family thought of a possible marriage often determined if vows were exchanged (Vatuna). So, by proposing to Elizabeth, Darcy not only ignores the will of his family but also the best social interest of Elizabeth who would be set financially but perhaps rejected by the rich elitists.

With – Vatuna – being used as the in-text citation for two sentences in a row – some would say just include the second one. But this is a place where I teach that it is better to be safe than sorry and teach my children to include it in both places. Plagiarism is no joke.

#### **In-Text Citations for Sources without Page Numbers & WITHOUT an Author – Such as a Website**

Historical documentation of these routes reveals that "6-10% of all emigrants on the trails succumbed to some form of illness" (Death). Approximately 350,000 people traveled trails west and About 30,000 of them died of illness (Death). Others traveling on the trails died from accidents, attacks by Native Americans, wild animals, and more (Death). Even though many died traveling west, they paved the way for future travelers. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in America to get a medical degree, stated, "It's not easy being a pioneer but oh, it is fascinating! I would not trade one moment, even the worst moment, for all the riches in the world" (This Week). Progress takes sacrifice.

Death – used three times in a row. The first one is 100% necessary as it is a direct quote. The next two are paraphrased. Again, for the two paraphrased, some would say just include the second one. But this is a place where I teach that it is better to be safe than sorry.

Death citation – Actual title of the article is "Death and Danger on the Emigrant Trails."

This Week citation – Actual title is "This Week in Medical History-Happy Birthday Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell."

#### **Per MLA handbook on what to include from the title:**

To shorten the title of a long work in your writing or in your works-cited-list entry, include the beginning words of the title up to at least the first noun.

AND

An in-text citation begins with the shortest piece of information that directs your reader to the entry in the works-cited list.

## Works Cited Notes – See example Works Cited on the following page.

\*Notice on the Works Cited Page Below (for Books):

*Robinson Crusoe* gives the location of Penguin Books-Great Britain.

Same with *The Pilgrim's Progress* - Bible Memory Association International (BMAI)-St. Louis, Missouri.

Then notice that the location is not provided for *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Hiding Place*.

This is because: The City/Place of Publication should only be used if:

1. the book was published before 1900,
2. if the publisher has offices in more than one country, or
3. if the publisher is unknown in North America (NA).

*Robinson Crusoe* – Penguin Books – Locations in many countries (#2).

*The Pilgrim's Progress* – BMAI – Publisher is unknown in NA (#3)

*To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Hiding Place* – not 1, 2, or 3.

This can get a bit complicated and is getting very technical. So, to make things easier for kids just learning to put a Works Cited page together, for all books, I would recommend following this:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City/State of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

### Example of how to include a vocab word in Works Cited

“Benevolent, adj. (3).” *Vocabulary.com*, <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/benevolent>. Accessed 23 Oct. 2023.

**When to include Accessed Date for Websites:** Websites subject to change - These are dictionaries, blogs, multiple contributors, etc. It is a bit of a judgment call.

### Example for *The Bible* Online:

*The Bible*. Authorized New International Version, 2011. Bible Gateway,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A9&version=NIV>.

### Example for *The Bible* in Book Form:

*The Bible*. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

### More To Notice on Next Page/Works Cited Example:

Notice that Works Cited is centered at the top.

Notice how the first word in each entry below matches the in-text citations in the above paragraphs with the exception of *The Bible*.

Notice that the sources are in alphabetical order.

Notice the sources are in – hanging – format. This means the first line has a regular margin but the line beneath it is indented. You don't do this by tabbing over. You select the sources and choose hanging.

Notice the Works Cited page is double spaced.

## Works Cited

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2018, [https://www.nighthawkradiology.com/this-week-in-medical-history-hapy-birthday-dr-](https://www.nighthawkradiology.com/this-week-in-medical-history-hapy-birthday-dr-elizabeth-blackwell/)

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<https://kristimlane.wordpress.com/>