

# MLA CITATIONS 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

## FOR PARAPHRASING:

An author's name and page number need to be included in some form:

### Author's Name in text

Alexie has said that he learned to read through comic books (464).

OR

Consequently, Lorrie Moore (491-497) describes her relationship with writing...

OR

### Author's Name in reference

The importance of comic books in reading has already been established (Alexie 464).

OR

Others have suggested that no single event led to deciding to write (e.g., Moore 491-497).

## FOR DIRECT QUOTATIONS:

### Short quotes: place period after citation:

In "The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me", Sherman Alexie recalls, "Our house was filled with books. They were stacked in crazy piles in the bathroom, bedrooms and living room" (464).

### Quotes over four lines are known as "block quotes": Indent one inch and remove quotation marks. Insert the period before the citation (including poetry or prose):

Sherman Alexie depicts his earliest childhood memories with reading and writing:

↔ The words themselves were mostly foreign, but I still remember the exact moment when I first understood, with a sudden clarity, the purpose of a paragraph. I didn't have the vocabulary to say 'paragraph,' but I realized that a paragraph was a fence that held words. The words inside a paragraph worked together for a common purpose. They had a specific reason for being inside a fence. (464)

### Insert citations to avoid confusion in a single sentence when quoting multiple authors:

While Alexie's "father loved books"(464), Moore's mother would sarcastically say "Sure you like to write. Of course. Sure you like to write" (496).

### For citing sources without authors, use the first few words of the reference entry (usually the title):

Writing influences dreams... (In the Write Place 7)

### \*NOTE\* If you use the same source multiple times within a paragraph you can simply put the citation after the last use.

Moore describes the types of criticism she received in her writing. While her mother ignores Moore's writing all together, her high school English teacher says, "Some of your images are quite nice, but you have no sense of plot." Later in college her creative writing peers tell her, "Much of your writing is smooth and energetic. You have, however, a ludicrous notion of plot" (Moore 491-492).

For complete use of sources, use the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Edition.

# MLA Citations

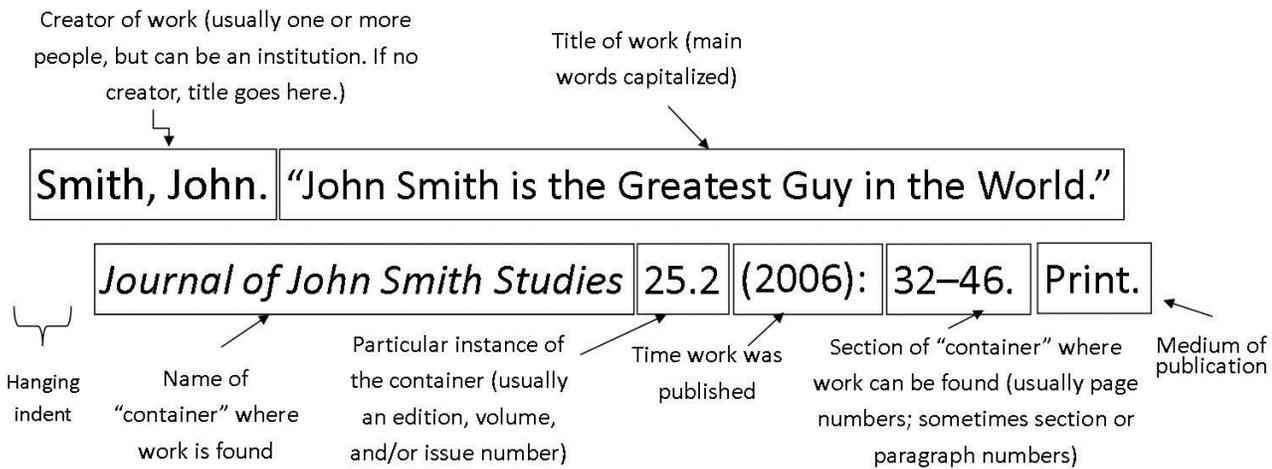
brought to you by...  
**THE WRITING CENTER**  
Kellogg Library 1103 | 760-750-4168 | csusm.edu/writingcenter



California State University  
SAN MARCOS  
Student  
Affairs

# MLA CITATIONS 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

## Anatomy of an MLA Reference



To understand the format of the citations shown here, identify the pieces of the example based on this template.

### A book with one author:

Ex: Zinsser, William K. *Writing to Learn*. New York: Harper, 1993. Print.

### A book with two authors:

Ex: Axelrod, Rise B., and Charles R. Cooper. *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. Print.

### A book with three or more authors:

Ex: McMahon, Elizabeth X., Susan Day, Robert W. Funk, and Linda Coleman. *Literature and the Writing Process*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010. Print.

### A section from an anthology or chapter in a book:

Ex: Fuentes, Carlos. "How I Started to Write." *The Art of the Personal Essay* Ed. Phillip Lopate. New York: Anchor Books, 1995. 432-453. Print.

### An article published in an online database:

Ex: Zamel, Vivian. "Responding to Student Writing." *TESOL Quarterly* 19.1 (1985): 79-101. *JSTOR*. Web. 15 Sept. 2010.

### A website: \*NOTE\*: If your instructor requires a URL, include it in angled brackets after the access date:

Ex: Chang, Jose. *Learning to Write*. *The Writing Website*. 12 July 2000. Web. 15 Sept. 2010.  
<<http://writing/learning.com>>

For complete use of sources, use the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Edition.

# MLA Citations

brought to you by...

THE WRITING CENTER

Kellogg Library 1103 | 760-750-4168 | [csum.edu/writingcenter](http://csum.edu/writingcenter)

California State University  
SAN MARCOS  
Student Affairs