MLA Citations: The High Points

In-text citations
- Include the author’s last name and page number in parenthesis like this: “Here is my quote” (Smith 2).
- You can also use the author’s name in a signal phrase, leaving just the page number for the final parenthesis like this: According to Smith, “Here is my quote” (2).

IF……

- A source does not have an author, use the title (shortened or full) in the parenthetical citation.
  o International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s (“Decade”).

- The source has two authors, list both of them.
  o In fact, “all utopian fiction whirls contemporary actors through a costume dance no place else but here” (Rabkin and Olander vii).

- The source has three or more authors, list the first, then write “et al.”
  o People often use “The Yellow Wallpaper” to illustrate how society imprisons women (Lauter et al. 2601-09).

- More than one author has the same last name, include the first initial.
  o The mother teaches her daughters all the practical skills, including grinding corn, cooking, and motherhood (F. Eggan 33). Dorothy Eggan states that “children belonged—literally—to the mother and her clan” (1).

- More than one article/book has the same exact author, include the sources’ titles.
  o (Author must be exact; this does not include articles with a consistent author, but different co-authors)
    o Shakespeare’s King Lear has been called a “comedy of the grotesque” (Frye, Anatomy 237). For Northrop Frye, “every moment we have lived through we have also died out of into another order” (Double Vision 85).

- You’re citing time-based media such as audio or video recordings, cite the relevant time or range of times by noting the hours, minutes, and seconds displayed on your media player.
  o Buffy’s promise that “there’s not going to be any incidents like at my old school” is obviously not true (Buffy 00:03:16-17).

- You use a quotation of another author in a different source (indirect sources/quotations), reference the original work in text and add “qtd. in ___.” (qtd. = quoted)
  o Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 450).

- You reference more than one work in the same sentence and do not need to separate the quotations or ideas, separate the citations in the parentheses with a semi-colon (;).
  o They plant seeds into Mother Earth’s womb and care for the seeds through their whole lives (Ferrero; Lomatewama; Masayesva & Wall).
Works Cited Page: Core Elements

All Works Cited entries should list the following applicable elements in the order given, using the punctuation indicated after each element.

1) Author.
(The main creator of the content you are citing)

2) Title of source.
(The name of the actual source you are citing, like the specific page on a website, for example, or the article in the journal).

3) Source container,
(The thing that “holds” the title mentioned in #2 above, like the main website that “contains” a specific page, for example, or the journal from which an article comes).

4) Other contributors,
(Editors, translators, performers, etc.)

5) Version,
(Any numbered editions, named editions, or various other versions that may be noted in media)

6) Number,
(Volume and issue numbers for journals or season and episode numbers for TV shows.)

7) Publisher,
(The organization primarily responsible for producing the source and/or making it available to the public.)

8) Publication date,
(The copyright date, the date it was made public or last updated.)

9) Location.
(Page numbers, URLs and DOIs, disc numbers, etc.)
