

Quick Guide to MLA style

1. You must cite your source whenever you quote someone else's words, using double quotation marks around their words. Acknowledge ALL sources in the text of your essay by citing author's surname and page nos, in brackets at the end of the sentence. Do not use footnotes or endnotes to do this.

At the end of a quotation or sentence in which you quote someone else's words or ideas give the author's last name and the page number (O'Regan 59). The reader then checks O'Regan in your Works Cited at the end of your essay for the full reference.

2. You must also cite your source whenever you summarise or paraphrase anyone else's ideas. When you are summarising an argument always make your source clear in the sentence, e.g., O'Regan argues that Australian national cinema has three distinctive features.

If you use the author's name in the sentence give only the page no. in brackets, e.g., On the question of the box office failure of The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, O'Regan argues that subsequent critical debate influenced Schepisi's overall standing as an Australian filmmaker (59).

If you cite more than one work by the same author use a short version of the title (O'Regan, National 59).

If you cite someone quoted by another source, acknowledge this in brackets, e.g., Alison Butler argues that 'border crossings' involve "misreading ... which governs the reception of films outside ... their national contexts" (qtd. in O'Regan 59).

List full publication details of all sources alphabetically at the end of the essay as Works Cited (*not* as Bibliography).

Cite ALL publications or sources in alphabetical order, regardless of whether your source is a book, a journal article, a film or a newspaper review.

Cite written sources by starting with the author's surname.

Cite films, videos or other recordings by Title, in alphabetical order.

Use MLA punctuation accurately, as in the examples listed below.

A book by a single author: use only the first city listed as place of publication.

O'Regan, Tom. Australian National Cinema. London: Routledge, 1996.

An article in a book of essays by different authors. Include the page numbers for the entire article, not just the pages you quoted from in your essay.

Routt, William D. "The Fairest Child in the Motherland: Colonialism and Family in Films of the 1920s and 1930s." The Australian Screen. Ed. Albert Moran and Tom O'Regan. Ringwood, Vic.: Penguin, 1989. 28-52.

An article in a journal.

Thomas, Allan James. "Camping Outback: Landscape, Masculinity, and Performance in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*." Continuum 10.2 (1996): 97-110.

An article in a newspaper.

Adams, Philip. "How Bazza Turned the Tide of Cultural Cringe." Australian 12-13 Sept. 1992: 3, 6.

A review in a newspaper.

Ellis, Bob. "A Locker Room Apocalypse Now." Rev. of Streamers, dir. Robert Altman. National Times 7-13 Dec. 1984: 32.

An interview in a magazine.

Mendelsohn, Ben. Interview. "Home-Town Boy." By Tim Hunter. Cinema Papers 119 (1997): 18-20.

A film or video recording. Include original year of release and year of release of your source (VHS or DVD or CD).

Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy. Dir. Tracey Moffatt. Perf. Marcia Langton and Agnes Hardwick. Ronin, 1990. Videocassette. Ronin, 1991.

On-line journal article. Include date of your online access after original publication date.

Miles, Adrian. "Singing in the Rain: A Hypertextual Reading". Postmodern Culture 8.2 (1998). 30 October 2002.
<<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pcm/issue.198/8.2miles.html>>.

On-line review. Include date or your online access after original publication date.

Ebert, Roger. Rev. of The Truman Show, dir. Peter Weir. Chicago Sun-Times Online 5 June 1998. 16 June 1998 <http://www.suntimes.com/output/ebert/05show.htm>.

For further details consult the MLA Handbook available in La Trobe Library.