Essays using the MLA (Modern Language Association) format can include both a Works Cited page and a Works Consulted page. The Works Cited page is reserved for books, websites, and other resources that you used to include specific facts or direct quotations in your essay. The Works Consulted page refers to resources you used for background information or general ideas, but did not refer to or quote in your actual essay. The Works Cited page is placed after the essay and the Works Consulted page is last.

When citing resources in your text, be certain you “sandwich” your quotations. Quotations that are simply spliced into an essay with no additional background are awkward and ineffective. Rather, a well-selected, well-framed quotation helps your reader recognize the source of important information and understand how it supports your thesis. An example is below:

INCORRECT: Even skilled surgeons have difficulty with this operation. “The decision to separate a conjoined twin is not taken lightly” (Hermann 33).

The reader wonders who made this statement and how it links to the essay.

CORRECT: Even skilled surgeons have difficulty with this operation. “The decision to separate a conjoined twin,” explains Dr. Kevin Morris, “is not taken lightly” (Hermann 33). Morris, head of pediatric research at Vanderbilt University, believes families should carefully consider the risks before approving such a procedure.

The reader understands who is speaking, what they are saying, and how it connects to a larger argument.

A QUOTATION SANDWICH (a.k.a. “The Quoteburger”)

**Upper bun**- Context/Background
Who is speaking? To whom? Credentials? Situation?

**“Meat”**- The actual quotation should be accurate and properly cited.
Select a quotation for clarity and maximum impact.

**Lower bun**- Connection/Support
This is the “so what” element. Explain how this quotation supports your argument/thesis.

EX: (UPPER BUN) While grading essays, Mr. Cox became upset when he found that his pupils attempted to turn in lists of web addresses instead of creating actual Works Cited pages. (MEAT) “Students,” he explained as he returned the essays, “I certainly don’t expect you to memorize M.L.A. citation, but I do expect you to use it.” (LOWER BUN) Clearly, Mr. Cox wanted his students to familiarize themselves with a common system to properly cite their sources.
Creating In-Text Citation:

In many cases, your in-text citation entries will look like the example below. Within the parentheses, the first entry is the author and the second entry is the page number. *Note: Even though the quotation is from Lydia Smith, the in-text citation credits the source, author Tom Jones.*

Lydia Smith, an advocate for the poor in New York City, also asserts, “Few understand the plight of the homeless” (Jones 33).

If you cite a source and include the author/source in your sentence, you do not need to list the author in your citation. You do need to cite the page number, though. Referring the examples, below, the reader will know to look for the author/researcher Paul Gidley and the E.P.A. annual report in your *Works Cited* page.

According to researcher Paul Gidley, “Over 300 species of ants can inhabit a single tree in the rainforests of Brazil” (21).

The Environmental Protection Agency, in its 2006 annual report, asserted that pollution levels have been reduced by 15% in the last three years (34).

In rare cases, if there is no listed author for a website or an article, simply use a distinguishing key word/phrase from the title of the article. If your website does not have numbered lines or page listings, you may omit the page number/line number information from your citation.

“More than 17 whales have died of mercury poisoning since 2006” (“Whales” 44).

Some whales have been relocated to safe waters, but over 30% simply swim back to the unsafe areas they know best (“Helping”).

If more than one work by the same author is listed in the works cited, a shortened version of the title is given:

Students recognize that “giving credit to outside resources is a vital part of the research process” (Parker, *Survey* 197).
Dr. David Langley, a researcher at the University of Michigan, has discovered something remarkable. Over the past five years, Langley has researched the physical effects of numerous snack foods. The culmination of his study is a 127 page report, to be published next month in Journal of American Snacking, which finds that Twinkles are unhealthy and potentially dangerous. “Really,” remarks Langley, “There’s something not quite right about it. This snack product retained its eerie orange color and creamy filling through several tests, including severe heat and water exposure.” In experiments done at the University of Michigan’s $200 million Snack Food Laboratory, Langley found that Twinkies can actually regenerate themselves. “If you take just one bite from a Twinkle and let it sit for a few hours, its cell structures will regroup and it will grow back to a complete snack cake.” Langley also found that . . .

Examples of MLA parenthetical citation:

These snack foods are also high in sugar and fat content. One snack item in particular, the Twinkie, may pose a special threat. According to Dr. David Langley, a researcher at the University of Michigan, “There’s something not quite right about it” (Demaris). Other researchers believe . . .

. . . “In tests done at the University of Michigan. . . Langley found that Twinkies can actually regenerate themselves” (Demaris). Others have noted . . .

. . . “If you take just one bite from a Twinkle and let it sit for a few hours,” Langley claims, “its cell structures will regroup and it will grow back to a complete snack cake” (Demaris).

“In experiments done at the University of Michigan’s $200 million Snack Food Laboratory, Langley found that Twinkies can actually regenerate themselves. ‘If you take just one bite from a Twinkle and let it sit for a few hours,’” Langley claims, “‘its cell structures will regroup, and it will grow back to a complete snack cake’” (Demaris).

How your Works Cited entry would look:

If no author is listed:
(Select a key word from the title of the article)
. . . “In tests done at the University of Michigan. . . Langley found that Twinkies can actually regenerate themselves” (“Twinkies”). Others have noted . . .

How your Works Cited entry would look if no author were listed:
Works Cited


This sample page was typed in a large-font to highlight the details. Your page, however, should remain in 12 point font, with 1” margins at top and sides.

Notice:
- Author’s last name and page number are on the upper-right corner of each page, except the title page.
- Title is centered at top of page
- Alphabetical order (Cawardine, Ellis, etc.)
- Quotations marks for article titles (“Whales in Danger.”)
- Angle brackets at start and end of web addresses (< >)
- Underlining for books/websites/magazines (Discovering Whales.)
- Although double-spaced throughout, additional lines beneath the first line of an entry are indented
**MLA Style for Listing Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Source</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book with one author</td>
<td>Pyles, Thomas. <em>The Origins and Development of the English Language</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with two or three authors</td>
<td>McCrum, Robert, William Cran, and Robert MacNeil. <em>The Story of English.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with more than three authors/editors</td>
<td>Donald, Robert B., et al. <em>Writing Clear Essays</em>. Upper Saddle River, NJ:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[If the editorial or story is signed, begin with the author’s name.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed pamphlet</td>
<td>[Treat the pamphlet as though it were a book.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamphlet with no author, publisher, or date</td>
<td><em>Are You at Risk of Heart Attack?</em> np. n.d. [ n.p. n.d. indicates that there is no known publisher or date]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Type</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal interviews</td>
<td>Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 10 Feb. 2007.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>Hoffman, Charles. “Research in the Digital Age.” CNN.com. 22 March 2003. Cable News Network. 15 May 2006 <a href="http://www.cnn.com/1099articles/rida01175.html">http://www.cnn.com/1099articles/rida01175.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Components of MLA Entries

This list shows most of the possible components of an Internet publication and the order in which they are normally arranged:

1. The name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator of the source (if given)
2. Title of an article, poem, short story, or similar short work in the Internet site (enclosed in quotation marks)
3. Title of a book (underlined)
4. Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of the text (if relevant, preceded by the appropriate abbreviation, Ed.)
5. Publication information for any print version of the source
6. Title of the Internet site (underlined or, for a professional or personal site with no title, a description such as Home Page)
7. Name of the editor of the site (if given)
8. Version number of the source (if not part of the title) or, for a journal, the volume number, issue number, etc.
9. Date of electronic publication, of the latest update, or of posting
10. For a work from a subscription service, the name of the service
11. For a posting to a discussion list or forum, the name of the list or forum
12. The number range or total number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections, if they are numbered
13. Name of any institution or organization sponsoring the site
14. Date when the researcher accessed the source
15. URL of the source or, if the URL is impractically long and complicated, the URL of the site’s search page.

This list shows most of the possible components of a book entry and the order in which they are normally arranged:

1. Author’s name
2. Title of a part of the book
3. Title of the book
4. Name of the editor, translator, or compiler
5. Edition used
6. Number(s) of the volume(s) used
7. Name of the series
8. Place of publication, name of the publisher, and date of publication
9. Page numbers
10. Supplementary bibliographic information and annotation

This list shows most of the possible components of an article entry and the order in which they are normally arranged:

1. Author’s name
2. Title of the article
3. Name of the periodical
4. Series number or name (if relevant)
5. Volume number (for scholarly journal)
6. Issue number (if needed)
7. Date of publication
8. Page numbers
9. Supplementary information
Evaluation Criteria for Websites

The Internet creates extraordinary options for researchers that would have been unimaginable just a few decades ago. At the same time, savvy students are always on guard. Ask yourself the following questions as you consider which online sources to use:

**ACCURACY**

- Is the information reliable and error-free?
- Is there an editor or someone who verifies/checks the information?
- Does the information correspond with what you already know or other reliable sources?

Rationale:
1. Anyone can publish anything on the Web.
2. Unlike traditional print resources, web resources rarely have editors or fact-checkers.
3. Currently, no web standards exist to ensure accuracy.

**AUTHORITY**

- Is there an author? Is the page signed?
- Is the author qualified? An expert?
- Who is the sponsor?
- Is the sponsor of the page reputable? How reputable?
- Is there a link to information about the author or the sponsor?
- If the page includes neither a signature nor indicates a sponsor, is there any other way to determine its origin?

Hints:
- Look for a header or footer showing affiliation.
- Look at the URL. http://www.fbi.gov
- Look at the domain. .edu, .com, .ac.uk, .org, .net

Rationale:
1. See number 1 above.
2. It's often hard to determine a web page's authorship.
3. Even if a page is signed, qualifications aren't usually given.
4. Sponsorship isn't usually indicated.

**OBJECTIVITY**

- Does the information show a minimum of bias?
- Is the page designed to sway opinion?
- Is there any advertising on the page?

Rationale:
1. Frequently the goals of the sponsors/authors aren't clearly stated.
2. Often the Web serves as a virtual a soapbox.

**CURRENCY**

- Is the page dated?
- If so, when was the last update?
- How current are the links? Have some expired or moved?

Rationale:
1. Publication or revision dates not always provided.
2. If a date is provided, it may have various meanings. For example,
   - It may indicate when the material was first written
   - It may indicate when the material was first placed on the Web
   - It may indicate when the material was last revised

**COVERAGE**

- What topics are covered?
- What does this page offer that is not found elsewhere?
- What is its intrinsic value?
- How in-depth is the material?

Rationale:
1. Web coverage often differs from print coverage.
2. Frequently, it's difficult to determine the extent of coverage.
3. Sometimes web information is just-for-fun or outright silliness.