Trace the Source

Use MLA rules to edit in-text citations and Works Cited entries.

11.LU.2.B "Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in style manual, such as that of the Modern Language Association (MLA) or the American Psychological Association (APA)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each rule about what belongs in an in-text citation, circle each rule about punctuation or placement, and number the Works Cited editing steps in paragraph 3.

Editing with MLA Style

(1) MLA style helps readers trace a writer's evidence. In a research paper, a brief parenthetical citation usually follows a borrowed idea or quotation. The citation directs readers to an entry on the Works Cited page. When a source has a named author and page numbers, MLA commonly uses the author's last name and the page number, with no comma: (Garcia 42). The period comes after the closing parenthesis. A writer should compare every in-text citation with the Works Cited list, because each cited source needs a full entry there.

(2) A signal phrase can name an author before borrowed material. If the source has page numbers, place only the page number in parentheses after the material. If the named source has no page numbers, MLA ordinarily needs no parenthetical citation. Do not add a shortened title simply because the author appears in the sentence. A shortened title may help distinguish among multiple works by the same author, but only when readers need that distinction. In either case, the source must appear on the Works Cited page. Accurate citation choices show exactly which source supports the claim.

③ MLA editing also includes checking the Works Cited page. Start each entry at the left margin, then indent later lines one-half inch. Alphabetize entries by the first element, usually the author’s last name. For an online article, record the author, article title in quotation marks, website title in italics, publication date when available, URL, and access date if your teacher requires it. Keep punctuation and capitalization consistent with MLA models. Before submitting, verify that quotations match the original wording and that every Works Cited entry is cited in the paper itself.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. You quote page 77 from a source by Rivera, and Rivera is not named in your sentence. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

2. Your sentence names Chen as the author of a web article with no page numbers. What parenthetical citation does MLA ordinarily require after the paraphrase?

3. Your signal phrase names Lee, and you quote material from page 31. What should appear in parentheses after the quotation?

4. Two Works Cited entries begin with the author names Young and Bell. Which entry comes first, and how should any later line of an entry be formatted?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the fictional source information below to write a two-sentence mini-paragraph about repair cafes. In the first sentence, name Amina Bell in a signal phrase and paraphrase the source without a parenthetical citation, then add one MLA Works Cited entry with the website title italicized and an access date of 15 August 2026. Source summary: Bell reports that repair cafes help people fix household appliances and keep usable materials out of landfills. Author: Amina Bell. Article title: "Repair Cafes Cut Household Waste." Website title: City Science Review. Publication date: 14 May 2025. URL: www.citysciencereview.org/repair-cafes.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Source

GRADE 11 · 11.LU.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each rule about what belongs in an in-text citation, circle each rule about punctuation or placement, and number the Works Cited editing steps in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	You quote page 77 from a source by Rivera, and Rivera is not named in your sentence. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	**(Rivera 77)**
2	Your sentence names Chen as the author of a web article with no page numbers. What parenthetical citation does MLA ordinarily require after the paraphrase?	**No parenthetical citation is ordinarily needed.**
3	Your signal phrase names Lee, and you quote material from page 31. What should appear in parentheses after the quotation?	**(31)**
4	Two Works Cited entries begin with the author names Young and Bell. Which entry comes first, and how should any later line of an entry be formatted?	**Bell comes first. Each later line should be indented one-half inch.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Amina Bell reports that repair cafes can keep usable household materials out of landfills. This approach can reduce waste while teaching practical repair skills.

Bell, Amina. "Repair Cafes Cut Household Waste." *City Science Review*, 14 May 2025, www.cityscіencereview.org/repair-cafes. Accessed 15 Aug. 2026.

Accept equivalent paraphrases that accurately reflect the supplied source summary and use Bell in a signal phrase without an unnecessary parenthetical citation. The Works Cited entry should include the listed elements in MLA order, italicize the website title, and use a hanging indent when it wraps to later lines.