

Evidence Trail

Track borrowed words and ideas with MLA citations.

11.R.1.F “Cite primary and secondary sources for quoted and paraphrased ideas using a standard method of documentation such as the Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA).”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the exact quotation, circle its parenthetical citation, and label the primary-source example P and the secondary-source example S.

Following the Source

- ① Readers need to see where a writer’s own thinking ends and borrowed material begins. In MLA style, quotation marks identify exact language, and a parenthetical citation follows the quotation. Abraham Lincoln ended the Gettysburg Address with the phrase “government of the people, by the people, for the people” (Lincoln). The citation points to a matching Works Cited entry, where readers can locate the source. A paraphrase uses a source’s idea in new wording and sentence structure. It has no quotation marks, yet it still needs a citation because the underlying idea belongs to the source.
- ② A primary source was created by a participant, witness, or institution close to the event being studied. A speech delivered in 1863 can be primary evidence in a study of Civil War language. A later scholar’s book can be a secondary source because it analyzes that speech and other evidence. The label depends on the research question, not on whether a source appears online or in print. A reliable paragraph may use both types. The key documentation choice is simple: cite the text, image, interview, or analysis that supplied the words or ideas in your sentence. Do not cite an original document that you did not consult.
- ③ Works Cited entries give the publication details that parenthetical citations cannot hold. For a book, record the author, title, publisher, and year. For a web page, record the author or organization, page title, website title when it differs from the author, publication date if available, and URL. Alphabetize entries by their first element. In a parenthetical citation, use the author’s last name and a page number when the source has stable pages, as in (Garcia 42). When a web source has no page numbers, use the author or organization alone. Place the citation before the sentence’s final period.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 A student quotes words from this web source, which has no page numbers: Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," 4 July 1776, National Archives. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

- 2 A student paraphrases an idea from page 75 of Gabor S. Boritt's book *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows*. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

- 3 A student paraphrases a 2022 historian's article that explains why Lincoln chose certain language in a speech. For a study of Civil War language, is the article a primary or secondary source? Which source should the student cite?

- 4 Use this source card to write a complete MLA Works Cited entry: Gabor S. Boritt, *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows*, Simon & Schuster, 2006.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a primary source and a secondary source about the same topic. Write exactly two sentences: quote the primary source in the first sentence and paraphrase the secondary source in the second, using MLA parenthetical citations. Then add two MLA Works Cited entries.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the exact quotation, circle its parenthetical citation, and label the primary-source example P and the secondary-source example S. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A student quotes words from this web source, which has no page numbers: Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," 4 July 1776, National Archives. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	(Jefferson)
2	A student paraphrases an idea from page 75 of Gabor S. Boritt's book <i>The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows</i> . Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	(Boritt 75)
3	A student paraphrases a 2022 historian's article that explains why Lincoln chose certain language in a speech. For a study of Civil War language, is the article a primary or secondary source? Which source should the student cite?	It is a secondary source. The student should cite the historian's article because it supplied the interpretation.
4	Use this source card to write a complete MLA Works Cited entry: Gabor S. Boritt, <i>The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows</i> , Simon & Schuster, 2006.	Boritt, Gabor S. *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows.* Simon & Schuster, 2006.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hughes describes rivers as "ancient as the world" (Hughes), connecting the speaker to a long human past. Poetry Foundation identifies Hughes as a major writer of the Harlem Renaissance (Poetry Foundation). Works Cited Hughes, Langston. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." *Poetry Foundation*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44428/the-negro-speaks-of-rivers. Poetry Foundation. "Langston Hughes." *Poetry Foundation*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/langston-hughes.

Accept equivalent MLA punctuation and title formatting. In Part 3, accept any accurate primary and secondary pair if each sentence clearly matches its source and each parenthetical citation matches a Works Cited entry.