Citation Connections

Use MLA details to link research to its sources.

9.LU.2.B "Apply a style manual, such as that of the Modern Language Association (MLA) or the American Psychological Association (APA) to apply rules for citing sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every parenthetical citation. Underline each sentence that tells what belongs in an in-text citation or a Works Cited entry.

Tracing Research Sources

1. MLA style connects borrowed information to the source that supplied it. After a quotation or paraphrase from a book, a writer usually places the author's last name and the page number in parentheses, as in (Ng 41). If the writer names Ng in the sentence, the parenthetical citation contains only the page number. The citation points to a matching entry on the Works Cited page. That entry gives enough publication details for a reader to find the source. Using both parts prevents a research paragraph from leaving borrowed ideas uncredited.

2. Some sources, especially web pages, do not provide page numbers. For an online report credited to an organization, use the organization's name in parentheses when it does not appear in your sentence, as in (National Park Service). If the organization is named in the sentence, no parenthetical citation may be needed when the source has no page number. When a source has no author, its entry and citation begin with a shortened title instead. The wording in the citation must match the first item in its Works Cited entry, so readers can connect them.

3. On a separate Works Cited page, MLA entries are alphabetized by the first item in each entry, usually the author's last name. The page is double-spaced, and every line after the first line of an entry is indented. A book entry includes the author, title, publisher, and publication year. A web entry usually includes the title of the page, the website title, and a URL. Check each entry against the in-text citations before submitting a draft. A source listed on Works Cited but never cited in the writing does not belong there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. You paraphrase page 18 of a book by Ortiz, but you do not name Ortiz in your sentence. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

2. You write, "Ortiz explains that the river changed course," and the idea comes from page 18. Write the parenthetical citation that follows the sentence.

3. You use an online report from the City Planning Office. The organization is not named in your sentence, and the report has no page numbers. Write the parenthetical citation.

4. What should you do if a source appears on the Works Cited page but is never cited in your writing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the two practice source cards to write exactly two sentences about reducing lunchroom waste, one sentence using each source and an MLA parenthetical citation in each sentence. Then add exactly two alphabetized MLA Works Cited entries: Source A, Mira Patel, Lunchroom Choices, Bright Leaf Press, 2024, page 27, reusable trays reduce trash; Source B, Green Schools Network, "Sorting Stations," Green Schools Network, 2025, www.greenschools.example/sorting, labeled bins improve sorting.

ANSWER KEY

Citation Connections

GRADE 9 · 9.LU.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every parenthetical citation. Underline each sentence that tells what belongs in an in-text citation or a Works Cited entry. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	You paraphrase page 18 of a book by Ortiz, but you do not name Ortiz in your sentence. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	**(Ortiz 18)**
2	You write, "Ortiz explains that the river changed course," and the idea comes from page 18. Write the parenthetical citation that follows the sentence.	**(18)**
3	You use an online report from the City Planning Office. The organization is not named in your sentence, and the report has no page numbers. Write the parenthetical citation.	**(City Planning Office)**
4	What should you do if a source appears on the Works Cited page but is never cited in your writing?	**Remove it from the Works Cited page.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reusable trays can reduce lunchroom trash (Patel 27). Clearly labeled bins can improve how students sort waste (Green Schools Network). Works Cited Green Schools Network. "Sorting Stations." Green Schools Network, 2025, www.greenschools.example/sorting. Patel, Mira. Lunchroom Choices. Bright Leaf Press, 2024.

Accept equivalent two-sentence responses that use both source ideas, include correct parenthetical citations, and provide two alphabetized entries. In student formatting, accept MLA title styling and hanging indents when possible.