

Creating a PowerPoint Presentation using MLA Format

Library Director

Before Getting Started...

Greetings!

You're here because you need to put a PowerPoint presentation in MLA format (or APA, Chicago/Turabian, etc.). I'm here to help!

Before we get started, it's important to answer the following question...

“Why is my instructor making me put my presentation in MLA format?”

MLA format gives students an organized method of avoiding plagiarism by citing information used in a presentation.

Also, MLA format helps students create a professional presentation and provides your instructor with proof of your research through the Works Cited slide.

It's not to make your life harder (well, probably not).

MLA Format

If you have taken an undergraduate English class, MLA format isn't new to you. You learned how to put papers in MLA format.

Virden 1

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ENG 1013

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How Cats Conquered the Internet

This is an example MLA paper that was created by Rebecka Virden to assist UACCM students in formatting papers with MLA format. Interested in learning more about MLA format?

Granger 3

Works Cited

The Black Cat. Films On Demand, 1988, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=18590&xtid=1701.

Bradshaw, John. *Cat Sense: How The New Feline Science Can Make You A Better Friend To Your Pet*. Basic Books, 2013. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*, ezproxy.uacm.edu/login?url=&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_Front_Cover.

Gitlin, Jonathan M. "Watching Cats on the Internet is Good for You." *ArsTechnica.com*, Condé Nast Publications, Inc, 2015. *ProQuest*, ezproxy.uacm.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1703454551?accountid=40247.

MLA Format (cont.)

When we refer to MLA format, we're actually referring to a book: *MLA Handbook* by the Modern Language Association of America 8th edition (the library has a copy).

The *MLA Handbook* lists rules for formatting papers and creating citations, but it does not tell students how to put presentations into MLA format. On page 128 of the *MLA Handbook*, the authors give two suggestions:

1. Include brief citations on each slide that uses borrowed materials and add a works-cited list on a slide at the end.
2. Offer printed copies of your works-cited list to your audience.

“If there are no rules for putting a presentation in MLA format, then what am I supposed to do?”

First, it is most important that you meet your instructor's expectations for the assignment.

Then, use what you learned about citing sources of information using MLA format and apply it to your presentation using your best judgement.

Don't worry - I'm here to help you figure out what it's supposed to look like.

Here we go!

When to use MLA Format


Whenever you **quote, paraphrase, summarize, or copy** someone else's words, ideas, or images in a presentation, you need to cite where that information came from to avoid plagiarism.

Two parts of a citation:

- In-text or parenthetical citation (either orally or on slide)
- Full citation on the Works Cited slide

Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations - Text or Images

Feline Domestication



Domestication may have occurred between 8,000 and 13,000 BCE (Bradshaw).

Fig. 1. Three Ragdoll Kittens.

Example PowerPoint slide 1

In Example PowerPoint slide 1, there are two parenthetical citations (also known as in-text citations).

Citing summarized information found in an eBook

Citing an image - Since this is the first graph or image of the example presentation, "Fig. 1." precedes the citation.

Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations - Graphs

Citing a graph - Since this is the second graph or image of the example presentation, "Fig. 2." precedes the parenthetical citation.

Interest in Funny Cat Pictures Over Time

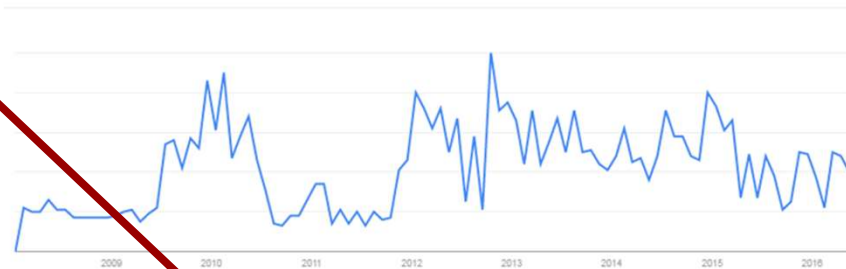


Fig. 2. Google Trend "funny cat pictures."

Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations - Tables

US Cat Ownership

Table 1

US Pet Ownership of Cats CATS

FACT	2012 AVMA SOURCEBOOK	2015-2016 APPA SURVEY
Households that own at least one cat	36.1 million (30.4%)	42.9 million (35%)
Estimated number of pet cats	74.1 million (year-end 2011)	85.8 million
Average number of pet cats owned per household	2.1	2.0
Percentage of cat owners who consider their cats to be family members	56.1%	
Percentage of cat owners who consider their cats to be pets or companions	41.5%	
Percentage of cat owners who consider their cats to be property	2.4%	
Average amount spent on veterinary care per year, per cat	\$90	\$1,141
Percentage of pet cats who are spayed or neutered		90%

Source: "Pets by the Numbers." *The Humane Society of the United States*, www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/pet_ownership_statistics.html.

Table citations vary from our other examples - include the full citation under the table after "Source:". Since the full citation is under the table, no entry of the source on the Works Cited slide is necessary.

Example PowerPoint slide 3

Works Cited Slide

The full citation for each source cited in the PowerPoint or orally during the presentation needs to be added to the Works Cited slide at the end of the presentation.

The Works Cited slide:

- Is at the end of the presentation
- Is titled “Works Cited” at the top of the slide
- Lists all citations in alphabetical order
- Uses a hanging indention for citations longer than 1 line
- Can be multiple slides if needed

Example Works Cited Slide

Works Cited

Bradshaw, John. *Cat Sense: How The New Feline Science Can Make You A Better Friend To Your Pet*. Basic Books, 2013. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*, ezproxy.uaccm.edu/login?url=&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_Front_Cover.

Google Trends "funny cat pictures." Alphabet, 2016. www.google.com/trends/explore?q=funny%20cat%20pictures.

Three Ragdoll Kittens. Getty Images, 2000. *Image Collection*, ezproxy.uaccm.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,cpid&custid=s9624607&db=imh&AN=imh213905&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Can you match up the parenthetical citations from Example PowerPoint slides 1 and 2 with the full citations on Example PowerPoint slide 4?

FAQ's

Q: “Do I need to use a certain PowerPoint theme/design?”

A: You can use whatever theme/design you (or your instructor) wants! In my example slides, I used a basic theme/design to keep it simple. However, it is good practice to use a theme/design that complements your presentation topic.

Q: “How did you come up with the citations on your ‘Works Cited’ slide?”

A: I used the citation generator bibme.org or the library database from which I found the information to create the citation. For more information on citations, visit the **MLA Guide** tab of this guide.

Q: “What about if I wanted to use a different style format, such as APA or Chicago/Turabian, instead of MLA?”

A: Different style formats are going to have different parenthetical and full citation formulas - ask your librarian for more information.

Q: “How many pictures can I put on a slide?”

A: You **should** only put one to two per slide to maximize the impact of those images. Also, look for high quality images that you are free to reuse.

Q: “Do I need to cite clip art?”

A: No.