

## MLA STYLE 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Sample essay in MLA style

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Professor Miller  
African American Studies 202  
15 May 2016

Name, course info, and date go at the top of the first page, aligned left

Center the title of your paper

*Economic Determinism and Ambition in the Migration Series* by Jacob Lawrence

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Your last name and page number go in the header of each page, aligned right

*The Migration series* by Jacob Lawrence is a sequence of sixty paintings (with captions)

1" margin  
Justified  
left

portraying the mass movement of African Americans from the South to cities in the North and West during the beginning of the twentieth century. He first did library research so he could understand his subject. He outlined each panel with pencil (Steele 248). His compositions do not often use traditional three-dimensional perspective. The style of the series exhibits what Ellen Harkins Wheat calls "cubist angularity" (62). What is most interesting is the way he painted the series (Steele 250). He started with black and painted the lightest paint process as creating a color palette. He continued through the palette from the darkest to the lightest paint process as creating a color palette. Jutta Lorensen, for example, refers to his palette as the "migration colors," and she explains its effect: "Lawrence's color code is a repetitive mode that accompanies the viewer/reader from the first panel to the last, as the same shades of green, red, yellow, blue, brown, and an incisive use of black are present throughout the entire series" (576).

1" margin

In-text citation: When you use information or a quote from someone else, generally include the author and page number in parentheses

Since you already mentioned the author's name in the sentence, you can just put the page number in parentheses

Additional in-text citation tips:

- If a quote takes up four or more lines in your essay, separate it as a *block quote* with a line break and 1/2" indent
- If your source doesn't have page numbers (like a website), just reference the author's name: (McDermon)
- If your source doesn't have an author, reference the first few words of the title: ("Migration Series")

Questions about citation style or when to cite? Ask a librarian!

# MLA STYLE 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

## Sample Works Cited in MLA style

Gutierrez 11

Alphabetize entries  
Use ½" hanging indent

Start on new page with Works Cited  
centered at the top

Works Cited

Book (print)  
with 2 authors

Aaronson, James, and Shania Frank. *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration*. U of Chicago P, 1989.

Encyclopedia  
article from a  
database

Adams, Luther J. "Great Migration, Causes Of." *Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration*, edited by Steven A. Reich, vol. 1, Greenwood Press, 2006. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.  
[go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&sw=w&u=mora54187&v=2.1](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&sw=w&u=mora54187&v=2.1).

Chapter in an  
anthology

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. "New Negroes, Migration, and Cultural Exchange." *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*, edited by Elizabeth Hutton Turner, Rappahannock Press, 1993, pp. 17-21.

Chapter in an  
e-book with  
3+ authors

Gilpin, Ron Blakeslee, et al. "Together Under Arms: Jacob Lawrence Paints Black History." *John Brown Still Lives!* U of North Carolina P, 2011. *ProQuest Ebook Central*,  
[ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/stmarysca-ebooks/reader.action?docID=880158&ppg=135](http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/stmarysca-ebooks/reader.action?docID=880158&ppg=135).

YouTube video

Humanities Council of Washington, DC. "Jacob Lawrence and the Making of the Migration Series." 1993. *YouTube*, uploaded by HumanitiesDC, 18 Feb. 2011, [youtu.be/62dlyfIRg5E](http://youtu.be/62dlyfIRg5E).

Journal article  
from a  
database

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/40027390](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40027390).

News article  
from the web

McDermon, Daniel. "A Century of Jacob Lawrence." *New York Times*, 1 Sept. 2017,  
[www.nytimes.com/2017/09/01/arts/design/jacob-lawrence-scad-museum-of-art-savannah.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/01/arts/design/jacob-lawrence-scad-museum-of-art-savannah.html).

Don't include http:// in the URL

If the journal  
article has a  
DOI, use that  
instead of a  
URL

Saint Mary's  
course reader

Mandela, Nelson. "I Am Prepared to Die" (excerpt). *The Global Conversation of the 20th and 21st Centuries*. XanEdu, 2015.

Jin, Qiu. "Lord Shi Jing of Japan: A Response to Your Original Verse." Translated by Florence Ayscough, 1937. *The Global Conversation of the 20th and 21st Centuries*. XanEdu, 2015.

Bible

*The Bible*. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

For more guidelines and examples, consult these resources:

- Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
- MLA Style Online: [style.mla.org](http://style.mla.org)
- MLA Handbook, Eighth Edition: REF 808.02 M699 (Reference Section)
- Writing Handbook for Saint Mary's College (English 4 textbook, 4<sup>th</sup> edition)
- Ask a librarian