MLA Format

Part One: In-Text Citations

The purpose of in-text citation is to distinguish what in your text comes from you, and what comes from someone else. For this reason, in-text citations for outside material must be placed in the text *directly* after the outside material.

For example:

> He goes on to explain that it is *both the observed and the assumed consumption of this media, which continually reassures the reader that "the imagined world is visibly rooted in everyday life"* (Anderson 35). That is to say, the readers of the magazine are not drawn to it because it offers specific content, but rather because it is directed at a specific reader.
>
> *NOTE: The italics are only included here for the purposes of this explanation. In an actual paper none of this text would require italics.

The *italicized* text is what is taken from an outside source and requires citation; (Anderson 35) is the citation. Here "Anderson" is the author's last name, and "35" is the page number where the quote is taken from. Additional information on who Anderson is and which text this is taken from will be listed on the Works Cited page.

Part Two: Works Cited (or Bibliography)

The purpose of the Works Cited page is to give complete bibliographic information for the sources you use in the text. The complete information is not given within the text itself because it would become difficult to read and follow the text with so much interruption. For this reason, the Works Cited page is a separate page at the very end of your text. The format of the source page depends on which citation style you use.

Think about the in-text citations as being a short code, and the Works Cited page as the key used to decipher the citations. Every source that you cite in the body of your text will also appear in your Works Cited.

For example: (continued from above)

The in-text citation is: (Anderson 35).

The corresponding Works Cited entry is:
Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Verso, 1983.

Now it is clear that "Anderson" is Benedict Anderson, and that "35" refers to page 35 in the book *Imagined Communities*. If someone wants to find the book they now know the title and author, as well as, the publisher (Verso), and when it was published (1983).

There are **SPECIFIC** formatting guidelines for each type of source,
which you must follow when creating a Works Cited page.