

1. In-Text Citations

Safara follows the **MLA (9th edition) citation style** for articles in literary, linguistic, and cultural studies.

In-text citations must include:

- the author's last name
- the page number (if available)

Example:

Cultural memory reshapes collective identity over time (Mbembe 74).

👉 The period appears **after** the parenthetical citation.

2. Two or More Authors

Two Authors

Use both surnames: (Mbembe and Appiah 112)

Three or More Authors

Use the first author's surname followed by *et al.*: (Gning et al. 203)

3. Citing Several Works in One Parenthesis

Separate sources with a semicolon: (Diallo 55 ; Gning 91 ; Dieng 18)

👉 MLA does **not require alphabetical order** inside parentheses.

4. No Author Identified

If no author is provided, use a shortened form of the title. Italicize it if it is italicized in the Works Cited.

Book example: (*Postcolonial Modernities* 44)

Article example: ("Digital Orality" 9)

5. Direct Quotations

Short quotations (fewer than four lines) must appear in quotation marks.

Example:

According to Appiah, “cosmopolitanism demands both universality and difference” (Appiah 137).

6. Sources Without Page Numbers

For web-based sources without pagination, write just the name between parenthesis as follows: (Sarr)

If the author is named in the sentence:

Sarr argues that decolonial thought must remain grounded in local epistemologies.

7. Block Quotations (More than Four Lines)

Formatting rules:

- Introduce with a colon
- The font size must be 1 or 2 points below the normal text (example: normal text font size 14; quotation font size 13 or 12)
- Indent the entire quotation 1.25 cm (half an inch) from the left and right margins
- No quotation marks
- Period before citation

Example:

Fanon powerfully describes colonial violence:

Colonialism is not satisfied merely with holding a people in its grip and emptying the native's brain of all form and content. By a kind of perverted logic, it turns to the past of the oppressed people and distorts, disfigures, and destroys it. (Fanon 210)

8. Paraphrasing

Even when restating ideas in your own words, citation is required.

From a single page: (Ngom 88)

From multiple pages: (Ngom 88–94)

9. Signal Phrases

Signal phrases create coherence between your voice and cited material.

Example:

As Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o explains, language is inseparable from identity (45).

When the author is mentioned in the sentence, only the page number appears in parentheses.

10. Repeated Use of the Same Source

If no other source intervenes, subsequent references may include only page numbers:

Example:

Postcolonial theory challenges Eurocentrism (Said 25). It also exposes the politics of representation (31).

If ambiguity arises, repeat the full citation.

11. Appendix Guidelines

If your article includes supplementary material:

- Appendices appear before the Works Cited page.
 - Label as Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.
 - Each appendix begins on a new page.
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12. Works Cited Page – Essential Rules

- Use 1.5 line-spacing the entire page.
- Use hanging indentation.
- Alphabetize by author’s last name.
- Italicize full works (books, films, websites).
- Use quotation marks for parts of works (articles, chapters).

SAFARA ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (NEW 2026 POLICY)

To ensure academic integrity and alignment with international indexing standards:

1. AI Disclosure Policy

If artificial intelligence tools (e.g., language editing tools) were used, authors must include a disclosure statement.

Example:

“This article was proofread using language-assistance software. All interpretations and arguments remain the sole responsibility of the author.”

AI tools may not be listed as authors.

2. ORCID Recommendation

Authors are encouraged to provide their ORCID ID to strengthen international research visibility.

3. Plagiarism Screening

All submissions undergo similarity screening prior to peer review.

Manuscripts exceeding acceptable similarity thresholds may be rejected.

4. Inclusive Language

Safara encourages the use of inclusive, non-discriminatory academic language.

Conclusion

This 2026 version modernizes the MLA guidelines while:

- using different scholarly examples
- integrating postcolonial and African studies references
- adding AI and integrity policies
- aligning with international indexing expectations