MLA Modern Language Association Citations


MLA is a "standard" style for citing sources in research papers in the humanities disciplines, but your instructor may prefer you to use another style. Please check into this before you do your first assignment.

Here are some examples of how to cite works in your bibliography (called a Works Cited list) and in the text of your essay or term paper using the MLA style. For more examples, consult the MLA Handbook, 8th ed. (REF LB 2369 .G53 2016).

MLA 2016 Format changes: In the new format, references in the Works Cited list are organized into parts or “containers,” as shown in the example on page 3 of this handout. Each of the containers will only use Periods, or Commas (, ) to separate material or containers from one another. The citation style has also been simplified to apply more readily to electronic material such as emails, tweets, and other e-formats. The style will still work with older styles of print and electronic material that have been around for longer. One significant change is that publisher locations are no longer as important and not required in most citations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works Cited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Double-space the Works Cited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use hanging indentation format. With this format, the first line of each entry starts at the left margin, but the second and any subsequent lines in each entry are indented one-half inch from left margin. In MS Word use Page Layout &gt; Paragraph &gt; Special &gt; Hanging (MLA Handbook 112).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alphabetize entries by the author’s last name or, if there is no author, by title, ignoring initial articles such as A, An, or The (MLA Handbook 115).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reverse the author’s name for alphabetizing, but otherwise give the author’s name as it appears in the source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If there are two or more entries by the same author(s), give the name(s) in the first entry, and then use three hyphens in place of the name(s) in the following entry or entries; alphabetize the entries by title (MLA Handbook 113).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Capitalize the first, the last, and all significant words of a title and subtitle regardless of how they are capitalized in your source (MLA Handbook 67).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Italicize titles and subtitles for works published independently such as books or journals; use quotation marks for works published only as part of another work, e.g. essay in a book or article in a journal (MLA Handbook 68).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shorten publisher’s name. Use U for University and P for Press (MLA Handbook abbreviations 96-97).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• When giving a URL, copy it in full from your Web browser, but omit http://. When possible, cite a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) instead of a URL. If DOI is unavailable, try to find a stable URL or Permalink number (MLA Handbook 48, 110).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If two or more publishers are named in the source and they seem equally responsible for the work, cite each of them, separating the names with a forward slash (/) (MLA Handbook 40).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-Text Citations (also known as Parenthetical Citations)

1. When you incorporate another’s words, facts, or ideas, whether in a direct quotation or by paraphrasing, you need to insert a brief parenthetical acknowledgement. Give the author’s last name and page(s) of the source. If the author’s name appears in the sentence, you may omit it from the in-text citation. For the first mention of the author, use the full name. Use just the last name in subsequent references.

   Regarding the knowledge of skills of the medication profession in the last eighteenth century, George Grinnell observes that “disease often outpaced the expertise and medical techniques in the period” (MLA Handbook 32).

   Paraphrase – with and without author’s name in sentence.

   In the late eighteenth century, there was a lack of knowledge about the illnesses that physicians were called upon to treat (Grinnell 32).

   Grinnell notes that doctors of the time were unaware of the causes and treatments of many diseases that affected their patients (32).

   Place the in-text citation “when possible, where there is a natural pause in the text. A parenthetical citation that directly follows a quotation is placed after the closing quotation mark” (MLA Handbook 54).

2. For web resources, unless the pages or paragraphs are numbered, use only the author’s last name. If no author is indicated, use the first word of the title (56).

3. “If you borrow more than once from the same source within a single paragraph and no another source intervenes, you may give a single parenthetical reference after the last borrowing” (MLA Handbook 124).

4. In citing classic verse, plays, and poems, omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating various numbers. Titles of famous works are often abbreviated such as (Ham. 1.5.35-37).

The Design of MLA 8th Edition and Containers

MLA’s 8th Edition citation system allows you to cite any source you use within a research paper you are creating.

Each entry in the Works Cited is made up of specific elements such as author, title, and publication details, given in a certain order. There are optional elements that may be included in the Works Cited entry depending on what information is provided by the resource being used. This may include volume and issue numbers for journal articles or the URL for a web site.

When the source forms part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container that holds the source. Examples of containers include a book that is a collection of essays, a periodical which holds articles, or a website that contains articles and postings.

A container may be nested in a second container such as a database that contains journal holdings, a book that contains poems, or Netflix which contains a television series.

Elements appear in the order shown by the template below. Not ALL of the template boxes need to be filled. This guide is set up to show you the available elements that may be filled as needed. Elements are omitted if not relevant to the work being documented. Elements are followed by either a comma or a period depending on the punctuation mark shown. End the citation sections with a period.
The citation will then be written into an entry on the "Works Cited" page like this:

Books, Book Chapters, & Related Items

Core Elements: Author. Title of Source. Publisher, Publication Date.

**Book: 1 Author**  
**Format:**  
Last name, First name Middle name or initial. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Publisher, Publication Date.  

In-text citation: (Author Last Name Page Numbers)  

**Example:**  

In-text citation: (Harris 32)

**Book: 2 Authors**  
**Format:**  
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial, and Author First Name or Initial Last Name. *Title*. Publisher, Publication Date.  

**Example:**  

In-text citation: (Johnson and Malow-Iroff 52-53)  

**Note:**  
- Arrange the authors in the order in which they are presented in the work.

**Books: 3 or More Authors**  
**Format:**  
Last name, First name Middle name or initial, et al. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.  

**Example:**  

In-text citation: (Gillis et al. 27)  

**Note:**  
- Only the first author’s name is included, and then et al. (from the Latin for “and others”) takes the place of the rest of the authors’ names.

**Electronic Book From the Internet**  
(This Example Shows a Chapter in Google Books)  
**Format:**  
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title of Chapter.” *Title of Book*, Other Contributor (editor), Version, Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages of chapter), *Internet Site*, Location (URL).
Example:

In-text citation: (Clarke 28)

Electronic Book from a Database p. 31, 34

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. Title. Publisher, Publication Date, Title of Container (Database), Location (URL).

Example:

In-text citation: (Malinowski 53)

Edited Book/Editor as Author (This Example Has Multiple Editors) p. 23

Format:
Editor Last Name, First Name or Initial, editor (or editors). Title. Publisher. Publication Date.

Example:

In-text citation: (Carne et al. 142)

Notes:
• This is a source with three editors. They assembled the book.
• The in-text citation does not include the word editors.

Chapter in An Edited Book p. 27

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title of Chapter.” Title of Book, editor (or editors), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages).

Example:

In-text citation: (MacArthur 70)

Notes:
• Editors’ names are both arranged in first name last name order.
• Sometimes you will need to cite an item that has another title as part of the title. In this case, the book title Thoughts Abroad is italicized within the chapter title which is printed in regular type and enclosed by quotation marks.

Book with No Author or Editor p. 24

Format:
Title of Book. Version (if applicable). Name of Publisher, Publication Date.
Example:

In-text citation: *(MLA Handbook 117)*

Corporate Author

Format:
Author. *Title of Book.* Publisher, Publication Date.

Example:

In-text citation: *(Canadian Institute of Forestry 13-14)*

Poem in an Anthology

Format:
Author Last Name, Author First Name or Initial. “Title of Poem.” *Title of Anthology*, editor (or editors), Version (if applicable), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages).

Example:

In-text citation:
Margaret Atwood suggests that “Marriage is not / a house or even a tent / it is before that, and colder” (p. 809).

Notes:
- When inserting poetry in an essay, use a forward slash at the end of each line of poetry. If quoted line in poetry starts with a capital letter, leave it in upper case, even in the middle of the sentence.
- If the book is a second or revised edition, place this information after the editors or after the title if no editors.

Encyclopedia Entry: Print

Format:
Author (if applicable). “Title of Entry.” *Title of Book.* Version (if applicable), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (page).

Examples:
Signed -

Unsigned -

In-text citation: *(“The Dayak” 420)*

Notes:
- If published electronically, include URL after page number.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Type</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry in an Online Reference Work</td>
<td>Author (if applicable). &quot;Title of Entry.&quot; <em>Title of Book</em>, Other Contributors (such as editor if applicable), Version (if applicable), Publisher, Publication Date, <em>Container (Title of Online Resource)</em>, Location (URL).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td>• In in-text citation, give full title if brief or shortened version of one or two words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The title of the online resource is an example of a 2nd container.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry from Oxford English Dictionary</td>
<td>&quot;Title of Entry.&quot; Specific definition indication. <em>Title of Book</em>. Publisher, Publication Date, <em>Location (URL)</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis or Dissertation:</td>
<td>Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. <em>Title of Thesis</em>. Date of Publication. Publisher, Description of Work. <em>Container (Name of Repository)</em>, Location (URL or DOI).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Example on MLA Web Site)</td>
<td>In-text citation: (Eikenaar 65)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>• Example of DOI (Digital Object Identifier) as a location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Novel</td>
<td>Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. <em>Title of Book</em>. Other Contributors (such as Adaptation or Translator if applicable). Series Number (if applicable), Publisher, Date of Publication.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-text citation: (Yoshida 121)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Custom Coursepack Materials Reprinted From Another Source p. 38

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title of Article.” Title of Book, other contributors (such as editor), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages).

Example:

In-text citation: (Jackson 148)

Conference Proceeding: Print p. 70

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Conference Paper Title.” Conference Title that Includes Conference Date and Location, edited by Conference Editor(s), Publisher, Date of Publication.

Example:

In text: (Pojar 23)

Government Report: Print p. 104, 117

Format:
Author (City or Country, Dept. Name). Title of Report. Publisher, Publication Date.

Example:

In text: (Canada, Health Canada 12)

Note:
- If Author and Publisher are the same, you may start with the Title, and add Publisher in its normal location. (p. 25)

Government Report: Online

Format:
Author (City or Country, Dept. Name). Title of Report. Publisher, Publication Date, Location (URL). Date of Access.

Example:

Notes:
- MLA suggests including a long author name in the text rather than using an in-text citation. Example below.

According to the statistics provided by Prince George’s Planning and Development Department, the city’s population was 75,150 in 1996.
Journal Article:
Retrieved from Internet. No Page Numbers. p. 48

Format:
Last name, First name Middle name or initial. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, volume number (vol.), issue number (no.), Publication Date (month as well as year if available), Location (URL).

Example:

In-text citation: (Keyes)

Magazine Article:
Retrieved from Internet p. 48

Format:
Last name, First name Middle name or initial. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, Publication Date (day & month as well as year if available), Location (URL).

Example:

In-text citation: (Linden)

Journal Article:
Print p. 30

Format:
Last name, First name Middle name or initial. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, volume number (vol.), issue number (no.), Publication Date (month as well as year if available), Location (pages of article).

Example:

In-text citation: (Jefferess 390)

Newspaper Article:
Print p. 111

Format:
Last name, First name Middle name or initial (if available). “Title of Article.” Title of Newspaper, Publication Date (day and month as well as year), Location (pages of article).

Example:

In-text citation: (Nielson 3)
Newspaper Article: Retrieved From Internet p. 48

Format:
Last name, First name Middle name or initial (if available). “Title of Article.” Title of Newspaper, Publication Date (day and month as well as year), Location (URL).

Example:

In text: (“Readings”)

Note:
• If no author, use first word or two of title for in-text citation.

Web Documents

Core Elements: Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Publisher, Publication Date, Location. Optional Element – Date of Access.

Web Page as Part of Web Site p. 28 p. 53 (Date of Access)

Format:
Author. “Title of Web page, posting or article.” Title of Web Site, Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date, Location (URL). Date of Access.

Example:

In-text citation: (Harris)

Note:
• Include date of access for online resources. They may move or change.

Web Page with no Author

Format:
“Title of Web page, posting or article.” Title of Web Site, Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date, Location (URL). Date of Access.

Example:

In-text citation: (“CBC Poetry Prize”)

Blog Posting

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (or Username). “Title of Blog Post.” Title of Blog, Publication Date, URL. Date of Access.

Example:

In-text citation: (Fleming)
### Media

**Core Elements:** Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Publisher, Publication Date, Location. Optional Element – Date of Access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Type</th>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Example:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Film: Writing about Film in General</td>
<td>Title of film. Other contributors (if applicable), Distributor, Date of Release.</td>
<td><em>Hamlet.</em> Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, performance by Mel Gibson, Warner Bros, 1990.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film: Focusing on Contribution of Person</td>
<td>Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available), description of contribution. Title of film. Other contributors (if applicable), Distributor, Date of Release.</td>
<td>Gibson, Mel, performer. <em>Hamlet.</em> Warner Bros, 1990.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaming Video (such as YouTube)</td>
<td>Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). “Title.” Internet Site, Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date, (2nd container if applicable), Location (URL).</td>
<td>Balzer, Kyle. “Global Living Library at CNC.” <em>YouTube,</em> My Prince George Now, 15 Mar. 2017, <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huBQHmLB6Hk">www.youtube.com/watch?v=huBQHmLB6Hk</a>. Accessed 17 Apr. 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Clip (such as a Podcast)</td>
<td>Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). “Title.” Internet Site. Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date, Location (URL).</td>
<td>“New Eco Books: Feature Interviews with Margaret Atwood.” <em>Alternatives Environmental Ideas and Action.</em> 4 June 2010, rabble.ca/sites/rabble/files/audio/MA%20feature%20interview%2045m05.mp3. Accessed 4 May 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- For in-text citations, enter only as much information as is necessary to get you to the appropriate place in your Works Cited list. (p. 116)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media: Facebook</th>
<th>Format: Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). “Title.” Internet Site. Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation:</td>
<td>(College)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media: Twitter p. 24</th>
<th>Format: Author Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). “Title.” Internet Site. Publisher (if applicable), Publication Date, Location (URL).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation:</td>
<td>In the main text of the essay, a tweet is cited in its entirety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Art: Image Retrieved From the Internet</th>
<th>Format: Creator's Last Name, First Name or Initial. Title of Work. Internet Site, Publication Date, Location (URL). Date of Access.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation:</td>
<td>(Lee)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Art: Image Retrieved From a Database</th>
<th>Format: Creator's Last Name, First Name or Initial. Title of Work. Title of Database, Publication Date, Location (URL).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation:</td>
<td>(Monet)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Art: Image Retrieved From a Web Site</th>
<th>Format: Creator's Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). Title of Work. Internet Site, Publication Date, Location (URL). Date of Access.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation:</td>
<td>(Blake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Visual Art: Image Exhibited in Gallery

**Format:**
Creator's Last Name, First Name or Initial (if available). *Title of Work*. Publication Date, Location (Name of Gallery).

**Example:**

In-text citation: (Johnston and Ryley)

## Personal Communication & Notes

### Interview Conducted by researcher

**Format:**
Last name, First Name or Initial. Type of Communication. Name of Receiver, Date.

**Example:**

In-text citation: (Deaux)

### Telephone Conversation p. 29

**Format:**
Last name, First Name or Initial. Type of Communication. Name of Receiver, Date.

**Example:**
Smith, John. Telephone Conversation. Received by K. Plett, 10 Jun.

In-text citation: (Smith)

**Note:**
- Personal communication may be cited in the running text of your paper instead of using an in-text citation, for example:

  In a telephone conversation between Dr. Stouck and the author on June 22, 2016...

### PowerPoint Posted to Moodle p. 52

**Format:**
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title of PowerPoint.” *Container*, Publisher, Publication Date, URL. Optional Element – Descriptive Term.

**Example:**

In-text citation: (Hutchison)
E-mail Message
p. 29

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title (subject line of e-mail).” Name of receiver, Date sent.

Example:

In-text citation: (Jones)

Class Lecture
p. 52

Format:
Author Last Name, First Name or Initial. “Title of Lecture.” Title of Class, Date, Location.
Optional Element – descriptor.

Example:

In-text citation: (Deaux)
Works Cited


