

MLA Citation Style: Print, Media, and Online Sources

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MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This handout, updated to reflect the MLA Handbook (8th ed.) offers examples and guidelines for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, and the Works Cited page. If you are asked to use MLA format, be sure to consult the MLA Handbook (8th ed.) or visit the MLA website (mla.org).

Guidelines for formatting IN-TEXT citations:

In-text citations should be used to direct the reader to the source listed in your works-cited page. The general format of an in-text citation is the first element of the source's entry (this is typically the author's last name) in the works-cited page and the page number. These are placed in a parenthesis.

- The typical format for an in-text citation is the first element of the source's entry in the works-cited page and the page number
- The in-text citation is placed in a parenthesis
- When following a direct quote, the in-text citation is placed after the closing quotation mark.

Example:

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

- When the author's name is provided in the text, only the page number is needed in the in-text citation.

Example:

Smith has expressed this concern (118-121).

- If your quotation is more than four lines of your text, it should be indented half an inch from the left margin. The in-text citation is placed after the last punctuation mark of the blocked quote.

Example:

Butler states that

the point is perhaps merely that from Bage's insights certain formal developments logically followed. In one sense or another he shared his contemporaries' awareness and fear of the power of organized society, which is often most effectively exerted in the moulding of opinion. (87)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the works-cited reference begins with the title of the work, either because the author is unknown or is an organization, the in-text citation begins with an abbreviated form of the title. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>... as stated by the presidential commission (<i>Report 4</i>).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If providing the author's last name does not provide sufficient information to pinpoint the source in the works-cited (ex. multiple authors with the same last name or multiple works by the same author), provide enough information to identify the individual source, such as the first letter of the author's last name or a shortened version of the title. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>The loans were a great profit to the lender (J. Malcolm 234).</p> <p>Butler argues that "marriage at the end of a conservative novel should be, and is, the fulfillment of a personal moral quest" (<i>Jane 214</i>).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the work has more than one but less than three authors, list both authors' last names in the in-text citation. If the work has more than three or more authors, list only the first author's last name and then indicate "et al." 	<p>Example:</p> <p>"Rather, Austen's letters and fiction suggest a different social role for women who play: their task is the maintenance of a rich domestic life lived among friends and family ..." (Zionkowski and Hart 166).</p> <p>"Overall, the majority of the biology fourth year students showed greater awareness of global warming aspects (69 ± 0.21%) compared to their first year counterparts (47 ± 0.18%)" (Freije et al. 14)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For sources that do not have page numbers, such as websites, the page number should be omitted in the in-text citation 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Greenpeace notes this phenomenon has been seen mainly in North America (Smith).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For multi-volume works, the in-text citation should contain the volume number, followed by a colon and the page number. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>(Wilson 2:1-18)</p>

Guidelines for formatting a WORKS CITED page:

- Start the works cited list on a new page, continuing the page numbers from the body of the paper.
- Center the title of the page (Works Cited) an inch from the top of the paper.
- Align the start of each entry with the left margin. Indent any subsequent lines one-half inch (or five spaces).
- Double-space the list within and between entries.
- Arrange entries in alphabetical order by author's last names or by title for sources with no authors.
- Capitalize the first word and all other principal words of the titles and subtitles of cited works list (do not capitalize articles, prepositions, coordinating conjunctions, or the "to" in infinitives.)

Citations for PRINT sources:

The basic format for print sources is:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

As of the 8th edition, city of publication and medium are no longer required unless it is critical to the identification of the source.

Book with one author

- Author's name should be Last, First
- Italicize the title of the book

Example:

Freeland, Cynthia. *But is it art?* Oxford University Press, 2001.

Book with two authors

- List author's names in the same order they are presented in the book
- First author's name is Last, First and second author's name is First Last

Example:

Thomas, Gordon and Greg Lewis. *Shadow Warriors of World War II: The Daring Women of the OSS and SOE*. Chicago Review Press, 2017.

Book with three or more authors

- List the first author's name, and use "et al." in place of the remaining authors

Example:

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

<p>Book with a Corporate Author/Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the Corporation/Organization where the author's name would go If the author is the same as the publisher, skip the author's name. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>American Allergy Association. <i>Allergies in Children</i>. Random House, 1998.</p> <p><i>Fair Housing—Fair Lending</i>. Aspen Law & Business, 1985.</p>
<p>A Work in an Anthology/Chapter in a Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place title of the work/chapter in quotes, and the title of the collection is italicized Add the editor(s) after the title of the collection Add page range of the work/chapter at end 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Gilmore, Glenda Elizabeth. "Whiteness and Manhood." <i>Major Problems in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era</i>, 2nd ed., edited by Leon Fink, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2001, pp. 307-315.</p>
<p>Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlike a chapter in a book, the name of the part being cited is not placed in quotation marks 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Felstiner, John. Preface. <i>Selected Poems and Prose</i> by Paul Celan. By Paul Celan. Trans. Felstiner, Norton, 2001, pp. xix-xxxvi.</p>
<p>Book with no author</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the book has no author, skip that part of the citation and list the book by title first 	<p>Example:</p> <p><i>Encyclopedia of Indiana</i>. Somerset, 1993.</p>

Citations for PERIODICALS:	
<p>Article in a Scholarly Journal</p> <p>Basic format:</p> <p>Author. "Title of article." <i>Title of Journal</i>, volume, issue, date, pages.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <p>Van Bunge, Wiep. "Spinoza's Life: 1677-1802." <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>, vol. 78, no. 2, 2017, pp. 211-231.</p>
<p>Article in a Magazine</p> <p>Basic format:</p> <p>Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Periodical</i>, Day Month Year, pages.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <p>Schreiber, Ronnee. "She Runs, We Win." <i>Ms.</i>, Spring 2017, pp. 29-31.</p>

<p>Article in a Newspaper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers are cited the same as a magazine, except for the page numbers • If the newspaper is not well known, include the city name after the title of the newspaper 	<p>Example:</p> <p>McKay, Peter A. "Stocks Feels the Dollar's Weight." <i>Wall Street Journal</i>, 4 Dec. 2006, pp. C1.</p>
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Citations for ONLINE SOURCES:	
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Basic format for online sources:

Author or Creator. "Title of Webpage, Chapter, or Segment." *Title of Web Site*. Publisher or Sponsor, Date of Publication, URL/DOI. Date of access.

As of the 8th edition, MLA now requires URLs or DOIs for electronic sources.

<p>Article in an Online Scholarly Journal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the journal is also available in print format, make sure to include page numbers • Include a URL or DOI with your citation. • Access dates are important for online works, as these sources can be changed or removed 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Bernard, G. W. "Henry VIII: Catholicism without the Pope?" <i>History</i>, vol. 101, no. 345, 2016, pp. 201-221, 10.1111/1468-229X.12230. Accessed 23 May 2017.</p>
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<p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List author of the website if known. If it is not known, begin the citation with the title of the webpage. • If the publisher of the website is different than the name of the website, list the publisher after the name of the website. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>"Traditions." <i>Wells College</i>. www.wells.edu/student-life/traditions. Accessed 23 May 2017.</p> <p>Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." eHow, www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.</p>
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<p>Article in an Online Magazine/Newspaper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation is similar to a print newspaper/magazine, with the addition of a URL and access date. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Kalb, Claudia. "These are History's Most Notorious Liars." <i>National Geographic</i>, June 2017, www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/06/famous-liars. Accessed 23 May 2017.</p>
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<p>YouTube Video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Videos are cited the same as print sources. If the author is the same as the uploader, cite them only once. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>“A Day at Wells.” <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Wells College, 7 September 2016, www.youtube.be/cEy6-pQ-l8w.</p>
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Citations for MEDIA SOURCES:	
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<p>eBook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eBooks are considered a different edition of a print book, and are therefore cited as an electronic edition of a book. Editions are noted after the title of the book. If your eBook was accessed online through a database, include the database name and URL/DOI. 	<p>Examples:</p> <p>Anderson, Carol. <i>White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide</i>. Kindle ed., Bloomsbury, 2016.</p> <p>Brackenbury, Alison. <i>Skies</i>. Carcanet Press, Ltd, 2016. EBSCOhost, zeus.wells.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1482915&site=ehost-live&scope=site.</p>
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<p>Film or Movie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Films are listed beginning with their title, followed by the director, studio/distributor, and release year. You may also list notable actors, which would be placed after the director’s name. 	<p>Example:</p> <p><i>Hidden Figures</i>. Directed by Theodore Melfi, performances by Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, and Janelle Monae. 20th Century Fox, 2017.</p>
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<p>Song on an Album</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To cite a song on an album, cite the artist’s name as the author, the song title in quotations, the album title in italics, and then the record label and release date. If you are citing a song from a streaming service or a website, make sure to indicate the service’s name and provide a URL. 	<p>Examples:</p> <p>The Beatles. “Hey Jude.” <i>1</i>, Capitol, 2000.</p> <p>The Beatles. “Beyoncé. “Pray You Catch Me.” <i>Lemonade</i>, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016, www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/.</p>
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<p>Podcasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include the name of the episode in quotation marks, with the title of the podcast in italics. After the title, include the creator, release date, and a URL.	<p>Example:</p> <p>“The Alibi.” <i>Serial</i> from WBEZ, 3 October 2014, serialpodcast.org/season-one/1/the-alibi.</p>
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For additional source types or clarification, please see the *MLA Handbook 8th Ed.*, which is located in the Ready Reference collection at the circulation desk. You can also ask a librarian or Writing Center tutor for assistance.