MLA Citation Handout
8th edition
Updated August 1st, 2019

Introduction

MLA citation style, created by the Modern Language Association, is the most common citation format used in academic writing. It is used primarily in the humanities, especially in English, modern language, and literature studies.

In MLA, sources are cited in two places, in the body of your paper as an in-text citation, and as a full citation in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

This handout is a brief summary of the new MLA Style. It is designed to provide some practical examples of the most commonly used sources. For more complete information, please see the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, or speak to a Learning Center writing tutor or a librarian.

REMEMBER:
Your professors have the final word about how they want to see citations formatted!

No online or computerized citation tool is perfect. It is up to you to check the accuracy of your citations *before* submitting research papers or other class assignments.

If you need help, contact:

the Learning Center	NCC Libraries
tutoring@northampton.edu	askthelibrarian@northampton.edu
www.northampton.edu/learningcenter	www.northampton.edu/library

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Core Elements and Guidelines for All Citations

The 8th edition of MLA provides a set of guidelines for citing sources across all format types that identify core elements that should be included in the citation on the works cited page, if they are provided by the source. If any of the information is not provided or it doesn't apply to the source you're citing, you may omit that element in your citation.

1. Author   person or organization that created the source

List the author's last name, followed by a comma, then their first name (Last Name, First Name).

2 authors: invert only the first author's name, followed by a comma. The other author's names are listed (first name last name) in the same order they appear on the title page.

3 or more authors: the first author's name is followed by et al. (meaning "and others").

No Author: alphabetize by the first word in the title, ignore *A, An,* or *The*.

Editor: if the editor did not create the main content, follow the name with a label describing their role. For two or more individuals, see the guidelines above and pluralize the role.

Corporate Authors: list as the author in the citation, if the publisher is a separate organization. When an organization is both the author and publisher, begin the entry with the title, skip the author element, and list the organization as publisher. Example: United States, Department of Labor.

2. Title of Source   specific name of source, such as book, article, chapter, episode title

State titles fully in the works cited, including subtitles. Capitalize each word, but not a, an, the*, conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet), or prepositions (against, as, between, etc.), unless they are the first word of the title or follow a colon in a title. Do not reproduce any special capitalization or lowercasing of all letters if it appears on the source.

Major works such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers, films, and web sites are italicized.

Minor works, such as articles contained in other sources, are in double quotation marks.

Titles beginning with numbers: The title should be alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out. For example, *1914: The Coming of the First World War* would be alphabetized as if it began *Nineteen-Fourteen*...

3. Title of Container   when a source is part of a larger whole, the whole is the container

Containers include books that are collections or anthologies, periodicals like journals, magazines, or newspapers, or Web sites that contains articles or postings.

4. Other Contributors
any editors, directors, translators, narrators, or performers

5. Version
edition [updated, expanded, 7th, etc.], cut [film], version [King James]

6. Number   volume and issue number, typical for newspapers, magazines, and journals.

Use the abbreviations, vol. for volume and no. for issue number.

7. Publisher   organization responsible for producing the source

Organization is also the author: begin the entry with the title, skip the author element, and list the organization as publisher only.

Business words like *Company (Co.), Corporation (Corp.), Incorporated (Inc.),* etc are omitted.

University presses are abbreviated with U for university and P for press. Example: U of Pennsylvania P.

City of publication is no longer required.

8. Publication Date   date that the source/container was published

Dates should be given as fully as they appear in the source.

Months should be abbreviated except for May, June, and July.

Use the day month year style (19 Mar. 2002).

Seasons: are included and capitalized when part of a publication date.

9. Location   page number, chapter, section, DOI, website URL, or permalink

Page number(s) are preceded by a p. for one page or pp. for a range of pages.

Online sources should include the digital object identifier (doi), or if the doi is not available, the URL.
- Omit the http:// or https:// from the beginning of the URL. Some instructors will ask for no URL or a shortened URL. Follow your instructor's instructions.
- Some databases, like JSTOR, provide stable URLs for citing their articles.

Place of publication is not included.

Example:
Ryan, Melissa. "Dangerous Refuge: Richard Wright and the Swimming Hole." *African American Review*, vol. 50, no. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 27-40. *EBSCOhost*, doi: 10.1353/afa.2017.0002.

In-Text Citations

In-text citations should lead the reader to the full citation in your works cited page. Include an in-text citation whenever you use a quote or an idea from a text, even if you paraphrase or summarize the idea. Place in-text citations so that they disrupt the flow of your writing as little as possible.

Typically, the in-text citation consists of the first element from the works cited entry and a page number in parentheses. Example: (Frey 54)

Situation	How to Cite It	Example
Quoting directly from the source	• place the in-text citation directly after the closing quotation mark.	In this process, "learners may interpret or distort the new information" (Ormrod 36), despite their teacher's intentions.
Paraphrasing or summarizing an idea from the source	• place the in-text citation as close as possible after the borrowed idea, at a natural pause in your sentence.	Survival is the ultimate goal for all forms of life (Canton 270), demonstrated by the behavior of parasitic organisms.
Author's name mentioned in your sentence	• provide the page number in parentheses. If you do not have page numbers, you do not need to put anything in parentheses.	As historian K. Theodore Hoppen notes, country doctors in England during the Victorian era were often not well respected (43).
Multiple authors	• 2 authors: use the last names of each author. • 3 or more authors: use the last name of the first author followed by et al.	(Carlson and Wilner 13) (Harris et al. 67)
Page numbers	• if provided, include them to indicate where you found the information or quote.	(Marcus 134)
Numbered paragraphs or sections, but no page numbers	• place a comma after the author's last name, and use the paragraph or section numbers in place of a page number with the abbreviation "par. or pars." or "sec. or secs."	(Chan, par. 1)

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No page numbers and no other numbers	• use just the author's last name	(Smith)
No author (source is listed by the title on the works cited)	• use a shortened title in the in-text citation, usually the first noun or noun phrase or the first word of the entry.	(*Reading* 15)
Multiple sources by the same author	• place a comma after the author's last name and include a shortened title.	(Hudson, "Creating" 89)
More than one author with same last name	• add the author's first initial, or if the initial is also the, the author's full first name to distinguish between the two sources.	(J. King 378)
Citing multiple sources in the same citation	• within the parentheses, separate each source with a semi-colon.	(Carter 7; Jones 21)

Long (Block) Quotations
Direct quotations that are more than 4 lines of text should be set off in their own block of text. Indent each line of the quotation ½ inch from the margin. Do not use quotation marks. Insert the parenthetical citation after the concluding punctuation of the quotation. Example:

as described in the following passage:

> The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself.
> He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His
> Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty. So he invented just the sort of
> Jay Gatsby that a seventeen year old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was
> faithful to the end. (Fitzgerald 92)

Indirect Sources
Always try to cite information directly from the original source. If you must cite a source that was cited in another source, name the original source in your text and include the indirect source in parentheses with the abbreviation "qtd. in" (quoted in). List the indirect source in your works cited list. Example: (qtd. in Osmond 5).

Sample Works Cited Page Entries

<div style="border:1px solid;">

Books

</div>

General Format:

Author(s). *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Rules for Books:
- Capitalize each word in the title of the book, but NOT a, an, the conjunctions or prepositions, unless they are the first word of the title or follow a colon in a title.
- Punctuation matters: Use periods, commas, colons, italics and quotation marks as shown.

Examples of Book Citations:

	Example
Book (single author)	Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication. ↓ ↓ ↘ ↓ Frye, Northrop. *Anatomy of Criticism*. Princeton UP, 1957.
Book (two authors)	If the book has two authors, list their names in the same order as they appear on the title page of the book. Reverse only the name of the first author. Author's name, and Author's Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, ↓ Year of Publication. ↓ Witte, Stephen P., and Lester Faigley. *Evaluating College Writing Programs*. Southern Illinois UP. 1983.
Book (three or more authors)	For three or more authors, the first author's name is followed by et al. (meaning "and others"). Author, et al. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication. ↓ Burdick, Anne, et al. *Digital Humanities*. MIT P, 2012.
Book without an author	*Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication. ↓ ↘ ↓ *Encyclopedia of Indiana*. Somerset, 1993.

Book with an editor and no author	Name of editor followed by "editor". *Title of Book.* Publisher, ↓ Year of Publication. Nunberg, Geoffrey, editor. *The Future of the Book.* U of California P, 1996.
Book created by a group, government agency or other body with no individual's name as author. (Corporate author)	Corporate author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication. ↓ United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries.* Taylor & Francis, 1991.
Book both authored and published by an organization	*Title of Book*. Publisher. Year of Publication ↓ *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America.* National Endowment for the Arts. June 2004.
Part of a book, such as a chapter or entry	Author(s). "Title of Entry." *Title of Book*, edited by Name(s), volume. Publisher, Year, Pages. Frances, Carol. "Faculty Consulting." *Encyclopedia of Education*, edited by James W. Guthrie, vol. 3, Macmillan Reference, 2003, pp. 772-75.

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Articles in Print Journals, Magazines, & Newspapers

General Format:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*. Volume, issue or number, publication date, page numbers.

Rules for Articles:

- Titles of **articles** or **documents** are not italicized, and only the first word is capitalized.
- Titles of **journals, magazines, newspapers, and other periodicals** are *italicized*, and all major words are capitalized.

Examples of Article Citations:

Articles in Scholarly/Peer-reviewed/Academic Journals

Author.	Title of Article.	Title of Periodical.	vol., no.	Publication year,	pages.
↓	↓	↘	↓	↓	↓

Callan, Eamonn. "The Ethics of Assimilation." *Ethics*, vol. 115, no. 3, 2005, pp. 471-500.

Articles in Magazines

Carlson, Eryn M., and Tamar Wilner. "Flagging Fake News." *Nieman Reports*, vol. 71, no. 2, Spring 2017, p. 13.

Articles in Newspapers

Healy, Michelle. "College Drinking Kills 1,400 a Year, Study Finds." *USA Today*, 10 Apr. 2002, p. D 7.

Articles from Library Databases

Most of the library databases will provide an MLA citation for each article. Check these suggested citations as they will often need some correcting!

General Format:

Author (s). "Title of article". *Title of Periodical*. Volume, issue or number of periodical, publication date, page numbers. Digital object identifier (doi) or URL.

Examples of Citations for Articles from Databases:

Scholarly/Peer-reviewed/Academic Journal Articles from Databases:

Rozett, Martha Tuck. "The Comic Structures of Tragic Endings: The Suicide Scenes in Romeo and Juliet and Antony and Cleopatra." *Shakespeare Quarterly*, vol. 36, no. 2, 1985, pp. 152–64. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2871190.

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. *EBSCOhost*, https://libprox.northampton.edu:/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

Magazine Article from a Database:

Bahler, Kristen. "Why We're All Shouldering the Financial Burden of the Opioid Crisis." *Money*, vol. 47, no. 10, Dec. 2018, p. 51. *EBSCOhost*, libprox.northampton.edu:/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=133107602&site=ehost-live

Newspaper Article from a Database:

O'Sullivan, Kevin. "Climate Change Talks Move Closer to Deal on Curbing Emissions." *Irish Times*, Dec 15, 2018, pp. 2*. ProQuest*, https://search.proquest.com/docview/2156253907?accountid=39096.

Viewpoint or Editorial from a Database

Kotlowitz, Alex. "Sanctuary Cities Do Not Guarantee Safety for Immigrants." *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2017. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, libprox.northampton.edu:/login?url=http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/ALJHAS929645570/OVIC?u=ncc_paul&xid=a878b9a7.

Web Sites

General Format:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Web Site*, date of article, web site address.

Examples of Web Site Citations:

Web Site (Whole site)

Author. *Title of Web Site*, date of website, web site address.
↓   ↓   ↘   ↓

Farkas, Meredith. *Information Wants to Be Free*, June 2015, meredith.wolfwater.com.

Article (Web Page) on a Web Site

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Web Site*, date of article, web site address.
↓   ↓

Farkas, Meredith. "Tips for Being a Great Blogger (and a Good Person)." *Information Wants to Be Free,* 19 July 2011, meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/2011/07/19/tips-for-being-a-great-blogger-and-good-person/.

Examples of Other Types of Citations:

TYPE	SAMPLE CITATION
Advertisement	Giorgio Armani. Advertisement. *Vanity Fair*, Aug. 2009, p. 41.
Artwork	Picasso, Pablo. *Head of a Woman*. 1932, Museum of Modern Art, New York. www.moma.org/collection/works/81148.
Audio Book	Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. Audio Bookshelf, 2000.
E-Book (without a url)	Chernow, Ron. *Grant,* e-book, Penguin Publishing Group, 2017.
E-Book (with a url)	Van Doren, Carl. "Mark Twain." *The American Novel.* Macmillan, 1921. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*, www.bartleby.com/187/10.html.
Blog	Frank, Adam. "The Remarkable Inconsistency of Climate Denial." *13.7 Cosmos & Culture*, National Public Radio. 26 July 2016. Blog,

	www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2016/07/26/487457043/the-remarkable-inconsistency-of-climate-denial.
Comic Book	Jurgens, Dan, et al. *Justice League 2011*. No. 51, DC Comics, 2016.
Graph	"Reported Cases of Lyme Disease by Year, United States, 1995-2014." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 5 Nov. 2015. Graph, www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/graphs.html.
Interview	Clinton, Hillary. Interview by George Stephanopoulos. *This Week.* ABC. WNEP, New York. 7 June 2009.
Map	"Mapping the Zika Virus in Real Time," *American Geographical Society*, 20 July 2016. americangeo.org/map-of-the-week/mapping-zika-virus-real-time/.
Photograph	Adams, Ansel. *Lower Yosemite Fall*. 1946. *The Portfolios of Ansel Adams*. *Little, 1992. Portfolio III, Plate 3.* Photograph.
Photograph, online	Gottlieb, William P. "Billie Holiday." *American Memory*, Lib. of Cong., 1947. Photograph, loc.gov/item/gottlieb.04211/.
Podcast	Sanchez, Claudio. "Should Everyone Go to College?" *All Things Considered.* National Public Radio, 15 July 2009. Podcast, www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106636657.
Report	Carnevale, Anthony P., et al. *Degrees of Value: College Majors and the Pennsylvania State System's Contribution to the Workforce.* Center on Education and the Workforce, 2016, cew.georgetown.edu/pennmajors.
Report, corporate author	*World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise.* World Bank Group, 2018.
Video	Haggis, Paul, director. *Crash*. Lions Gate Films, 2004.
Video Game	Boklev Alexey, et al., developers. *Gremlins, Inc*. Yukitama Creative Industries, 2016, PC.
Video, Films on Demand	*Rebels: America—The Story of Us*. Films Media Group, 2010. *Films On Demand*, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=97333&xtid=43274.
Video, Netflix	Anderson, Wes, director. *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2014, *Netflix*.
Video, You Tube	Obama, Barack. "A More Perfect Union." *YouTube,* 18. Mar. 2008, www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU.
Wiki	"How to Get a Job." *Wikihow*, www.wikihow.com/Get-a-Job.

Formatting Your Paper

✓ Every page needs a **1-inch margin**.

✓ **Double-space** every line for the entire document (including any long quotations and the citations on the Works Cited page.)

✓ Use a **readable font**, (such as Times New Roman), in **10 - 12pt size.**

✓ **Indent** the first line of every paragraph five spaces or one tab. Indent long quotations ten spaces or two tabs.

✓ MLA does not require a **title page**; instead, the first page of the paper should begin, underneath the header, with four lines, double-spaced, indicating: your name, name of the course instructor, name of the course, and the date.

✓ **Page numbering:** Create a header appearing on every page that includes your last name and the page number in the upper right hand corner, 1/2 half inch from the top of the page.

The first page should look like this, unless your professor's instructions direct you otherwise:

Flower 1

Dina Flower

Professor Vole

English 101, section 07

14 Oct. 2016

The Fishing Creek Confederacy

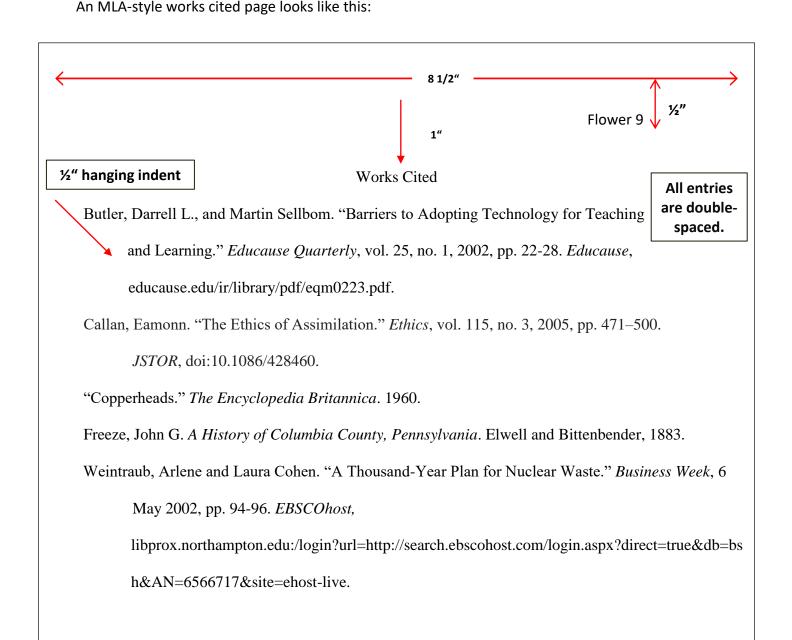In 1846 the military occupation of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, began. The cause of this occupation was stated as a Copperhead movement in the area ("Copperheads" 421). Insurgents "had erected a fort…they had field-pieces or cannon, and …refugees from Canada and deserters from other sections had joined them in considerable forces" (Freeze 401). The formation of this movement was a significant stage in Columbia County history.

Creating the Works Cited Page

- ✓ **Separate page** at the end of the paper.

- ✓ Maintain **1-inch margins**, **double-spacing**, and the **page numbering and header** from the paper's main body.

- ✓ Center the words **"Works Cited"** 1-inch from the top of the page.

- ✓ If a citation takes up more than one line of the page, indent the remaining line(s) 1/2 inch from the left margin using a **hanging indent**.

- ✓ **Alphabetize** entries by **author's last name**. If there is no author, alphabetize by the first word in the source's title other than *A, An* or *The*.

An MLA-style works cited page looks like this:

8 1/2"

Flower 9   ½"

1"

½" hanging indent

Works Cited

All entries are double-spaced.

Butler, Darrell L., and Martin Sellbom. "Barriers to Adopting Technology for Teaching

and Learning." *Educause Quarterly*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2002, pp. 22-28. *Educause*,

educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0223.pdf.

Callan, Eamonn. "The Ethics of Assimilation." *Ethics*, vol. 115, no. 3, 2005, pp. 471–500.

JSTOR, doi:10.1086/428460.

"Copperheads." *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. 1960.

Freeze, John G. *A History of Columbia County, Pennsylvania*. Elwell and Bittenbender, 1883.

Weintraub, Arlene and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year Plan for Nuclear Waste." *Business Week*, 6

May 2002, pp. 94-96. *EBSCOhost*,

libprox.northampton.edu:/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bs

h&AN=6566717&site=ehost-live.

Additional MLA Citation Help Resources:

***MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.**
Find it: Bethlehem Library in the Reference and Stacks collections   Call # LB2369 .G53 2016
                  Monroe Library in the Reference and general collections   Call # LB2369 .G53 2016

The MLA Style Center
https://style.mla.org/

Ask the MLA FAQ
https://style.mla.org/category/ask-the-mla/

Behind the Style Blog
https://style.mla.org/category/behind-the-style/

Purdue Online Writing Lab MLA Style
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introductio
n.html