MLA CITATION STYLE GUIDE (8th ed.)

Use the **Modern Languages Association** (MLA) Citation Style when writing essays, papers, and documenting information sources in English courses, and the Liberal Arts and Humanities. This edition of the MLA Handbook provides a universal set of guidelines for citing sources across all format types.

CONTAINERS AND SOURCES

MLA Handbook, 8th edition, uses a new model for the citation process based on containers. Identifying the difference between a source and container is critical when creating citations.

Types of Containers

Containers normally appear in **italics**, followed by a comma because everything that comes after a container title - editor and other contributors, publisher name, date of publication, and page numbers - describes the container (30). Many MLA citations will include one or two discrete containers.

- Compilations, such as books of essays, poems, or short stories
- Newspapers, magazines, and academic journals
- Websites (including online periodicals)
- Library databases and online book platforms

Types of Sources

Most **sources** are a segment of a container. "Use **quotation marks** for the titles of sources that are contained in larger works. Follow a source with a period" (68).

- Pages on a web site
- Books that are not compilations
- Chapters, short stories, or poems in a book
- Newspaper, magazine, or journal articles
- TV series episodes

"For example, a short story may be contained in an anthology. The short story is the **source**, and the anthology is the **container** (The MLA Style Center)."

Do your best to identify the necessary elements of each of your sources. Not every source will have a listed author, a version, or other contributors. Be sure to list the elements in the correct order. These guidelines state that, if provided, these major elements must be included in the citation.

1.	Author.	The creator of the content
2.	Title of Source.	Book, book chapter, article title, web page title, etc.
3.	Title of Container,	Book (compilation or anthology), journal, website, database, etc.; often more than one per citation
4.	Other Contributors,	Can be editor, performer, translator, etc.
5.	Version,	Edition, unabridged version, etc.
6.	Number,	Volume and issue number
7.	Publisher,	Name of publisher, e.g. Toronto University Press
8.	Publication Date,	If more than one, include most relevant to your use
9.	Location.	Page number, disc number, track number etc.

Sometimes, elements 3-9 will repeat again if, for example, your journal was inside a database.

Use the practice template on the MLA Style Center website as you begin to format citations available at https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/.

We Recommended You. . .

- Consult the MLA Handbook 8th ed., 2016, prepared by The Modern Language Association of America for detailed information on MLA style.

- Locate copies of the MLA Handbook located at your **campus library**.

- Refer to the **MLA Subject Guide** (subjectguides.nscc.ca/MLA) located on the Library Services website.

- Consult with your Library staff, available to assist you during regular library hours or at **Live Help chat** accessible from the library home page (www.library.nscc.ca/) or any subject guide.

Table of Contents

Books & eBooks

Book, Print

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. *Title of Source (Book).* Name of Publisher, Publication Date.

In-text Citation

Use a variety of styles when introducing information from sources for in-text citations, such as:
- use the author's name in the text when paraphrasing
- quote directly from the work word-for-word using author's name in text
- paraphrase without using the author's name in text

In-text Citation - Three Examples

1) *Author's Name in Text - Paraphrase*

Purtilio studied patient care service levels identifying primary care as an area

requiring rigorous assessment (111).

2) *Author's Name in Text - Direct quotation or word-for-word using a colon*

Purtilio held a controversial position: "Primary care is one area marked for improvement"

(111).

3) *Paraphrase without author's name in text*

Studies have found primary care service levels in commercial facilities are an area requiring

significant assessment and upgrading (Purtilio 111).

Book - Single Author

Works Cited Example

Cochrane, Allan. *Understanding Urban Policy: A Critical Approach*. Blackwell, 2007.

In-text Citation Example

Purtilio studied patient care service levels identifying primary care as an area

requiring rigorous assessment (111).

Book - Two Authors

Works Cited Example

Palmer, George, and Stephanie Short. *Health Care and Public Policy: An Australian Analysis.* 4th

ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

In-text Citation Example

Providing equitable heath care services within a single medical environment is challenging

yet achievable when assessed within a rigorous rubric (Palmer and Short 45).

COMMENT:
- Include both last names in the in-text citation, connected by and (e.g., Palmer and Short 45).
- In Works Cited list, the first author written as last name, first name. Write second author as firstname lastname (e.g., Palmer, George, and Stephanie Short).
- List authors in the order they appear on the title page of the book.

Book - Three to Five Authors

Works Cited Example

Seeley, Rod, et al. *Seeley's Anatomy & Physiology*. McGraw-Hill, 2011.

In-text Citation Example

A recent study concluded that groups of cells break away from the neuroectoderm during

development becoming parts of nerve, skin pigment, and facial tissue (Seeley et al. 143).

COMMENT:
- The in-text citation begins with the first author's name followed by et al.
- The same applies for the Works Cited entry

Book - Chapter in an Edited Book, Essay in a Book Collection, Anthology

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. "Title of Chapter/Essay/Story." *Title of Container (Book Collection or*

Anthology), edited by Firstname Lastname, Name of Publisher, Publication Date, pp. #-##.

Works Cited Example

Bordo, Susan. "The Moral Content of Nabokov's *Lolita*." *Aesthetic Subjects*, edited by Pamela Green and

David McWhirter, University of Minnesota Press, 2003, pp. 125-52.

In-text Citation Example

A discussion of the controversial themes of this work centers upon the perspectives of the

character that aim to sway readers to embrace his attitudes (Bordo 148).

COMMENT:
- Items considered under this citation guideline may include an essay in an edited collection or anthology, or a chapter of a book.
- List sources alphabetically by last name of the author in the in-text citation in the order in which they appear in the Works Cited.
- In-text citation uses only name of author(s) of the anthology chapter, essay, or section not the anthology editor(s) name

Book - with Translator or Other Contributors

Works Cited Example

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles, Viking, 1996.

In-text Citation Example

Odysseus and Nausucaa meet when Odysseus crouches holding the veil of Ino while looking

toward Athena who stands facing a stranger (10).

COMMENT:
- Here are other common descriptions for contributors: Adapted by, Directed by, Edited by, Illustrated by, Introduction by, Narrated by, Performance by.

Book - Encyclopedia Entry, Print, Known Author

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. "Title of Entry." *Title of Container (Encyclopedia or Dictionary)*,

edited by Editor's Firstname Lastname, Edition if given and not first edition, vol. #, Name of

Publisher, Publication Date.

Works Cited Example

Lander, Jesse M. "Shakespeare, William." *World Book Student*, edited by Martin Jones, vol. 4, 2016.

In-text Citation Example

Lander provides a contemporary first-world socio-cultural optic on the relevance of

Shakespeare's work in the context of gender and transgender themes (589).

Encyclopedia Entry – from Library Database, No Author

Works Cited Basic Format

"Title of Entry." *Title of Container (Encyclopedia or Dictionary)*, edited by Editor's Firstname Lastname,

Edition if given and not first edition, vol. #, Name of Publisher, Publication Date, pp. #-##. *Name of*

Database. URL.

Works Cited Example

"Gender Identity Disorder." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health*, edited by Kristin Key, 3rd ed., vol. 1,

Gale, 2012, pp. 670-76. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*,

go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&sw=w&u=nsprovl_nscc&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CCX4013

200205&asid=8c0deae558b843da8ef44957cb7138c8.

In-text Citation Example

The self-applied term used by individuals who identify with a gender differing from their

biological sex at birth ("Gender Identity Disorder" 674).

COMMENT:

- Many URLs are long and wrap around multiple lines; however, do not break a URL when it begins partway through a line.

eBook – Online from NSCC eBook Collection, with Database URL

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. *Title of Source (eBook).* Name of Publisher, Publication Date, *Title of*

Container (eBook Collection Name), URL.

Works Cited Example

Miller, Beverly L. *Gender Identity: Disorders, Developmental Perspectives and Social Implications.* Nova

Science Publishers, Inc., 2014. EBSCOhost,

login.ezproxy.nscc.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&

AN=836666&site=ehost-live.

In-text Citation Example

The author states: "perpetuating DSM-IV-TR's GID diagnoses in DSM-5 would further

stigmatize and damage transgender individuals" (Miller 68).

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eBook – Online from NSCC eBook Collection, with DOI

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. *Title of Source (eBook).* Name of Publisher, Publication Date, *Title of*

Container (eBook Collection Name), DOI

Works Cited Example

Alessandra, Anthony J. Genius of Mind, Body & Spirit Ebook. Electronic & Database Publishing, Inc, 2007.

Genius Series. EBSCOhost sBook, heb.007588.0001.001.

In-text Citation Example

The author refers to the evolution of speech, specifically of Martin Luther King: "Gradually

his language began to grow more visionary" (Alessandra 68).

COMMENT:

- A DOI is a unique, permanent identifier assigned to articles in many databases. Always include the DOI if one is provided (usually in the article's full-text, abstract or database record). If there is a DOI, no other retrieval information is necessary. Do not use URL shortening service (like bit.ly) because the link will stop working if the service that produced it disappears.

Journal Articles

Journal Article - Print

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Container (Journal),* vol. #, issue. #,

Publication Date written as Month or Season, Year, pp. #-##.

Works Cited Example

Belton, John. "Painting by Numbers: The Digital Intermediate." *Film Quarterly*, vol. 61, no. 3, Spring 2008,

pp. 158-65.

In-text Citation Example

Belton detailed the phenomena where users create more obtuse creations: "a digital excursion

of sound mapped to number taking raw digital states" though a simple process (56).

Journal Article - Electronic from NSCC Library Database with DOI

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Container (Journal)*, vol. #, issue. #,

Publication Date written as Month or Season, pp. #-##, *Title of Container (Database)*, DOI.

Works Cited Example

Sasani, Samira, and Diba Arjmandi. "The 'I' Against an 'Other'": Gender Trouble in the Edible Woman."

Theory and Practice in Language Studies, vol. 5, no. 7, February 2015, pp. 1520-24. *ProQuest*

Central, doi:10.17507/tpls.0507.28.

In-text Citation Example

Sasani and Arjmandi posit that Atwoods' writing resists societal normalizing identification

instead of integrating and celebrating women's disenfranchised voices (1524).

COMMENT:
- MLA recommends the inclusion of URLs unless your instructor stipulates that they be omitted
- MLA guidelines now omit the http:// part of the URL of items located on the Internet.

- A DOI is a unique, permanent identifier assigned to articles in many databases. Always include the DOI if one is provided (usually in the article's full-text, abstract or database record). If there is a DOI, no other retrieval information is necessary.

Journal Article – Electronic from NSCC Library Database with URL

Works Cited Example

Pollin, Burton R. "Edgar Allan Poe as a Major Influence upon Allen Ginsberg." *The Mississippi Quarterly*,

vol. 52, no. 4, Fall 1999, pp. 535-58. *ProQuest Central*,

login.ezproxy.nscc.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/213521494?accountid=400.

In-text Citation Example

Researchers find Poe's work "unconventional, vividly uninhibited poems about social,

political, and sexual conduct and action" (Pollin 541).

COMMENT

- Do not use URL shortening services (like bit.ly) because the link will stop working if the service that produced it disappears.

Journal Article – Internet Magazine on the Open Web

Works Cited Example

Jackson, Arthur. "New Approaches to Drug Therapy." *Psychology Today and Tomorrow,* vol. 2, no. 1,

August 2007, pp. 46-48, www.psychologytoday.com/.

In-text Citation Example

Jackson proposed high-tech virtual reality exposure as an alternative to drug therapy (46).

Websites

Website – Page on a Website

Works Cited Basic Format

Author Lastname, Author Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Container (Webpage)*, Publication Date,

URL. Accessed Date written as Date Month Year.

Works Cited Example

West, Jessamyne. "The System, Sort of Working." *Librarian.net: putting the rarin back in librarian since*

1999. 15 April 2017, http://www.librarian.net/stax/4716/the-system-sort-of-working/. Accessed 20

April 2017.

In-text Citation Example

West states that IMLS organizations receive approximately $200 million a year, significantly

less than the cost of one MOAB.

COMMENT
- When a source has no page number, the in-text citation is simply the author's Lastname. If no author, the in-text citation is a shortened webpage title without referencing a page number.
- Sources available on the open web are often without page numbers.
- Access dates are important when the source has no date.

Audiovisual Media

(Includes motion pictures, audio and television broadcasts, maps, artwork, photography)

Audiovisual Media - Films (DVDs, Video Files, Video Recordings)

Works Cited Basic Format

NOTE: If your paper focuses on the contribution of a specific person such as the actor, begin the Works Cited entry with their Lastname.

Performer Lastname, Performer Firstname. *Title of Container (Film)*. Directed by Director's Firstname

Lastname. Distributor's Name, Production Date.

Works Cited Example

Prince, performer. *Purple Rain.* Directed by Albert Magnoli. Warner Brothers, 2004.

In-text Citation

Prince preforms a monumental theatrical character in this narrative film with music with all

the manic staccato fervor indicative of early rock documentaries.

Works Cited Basic Format

NOTE: If your paper is about a film or television series not focusing on an individual's contribution, begin the Works Cited entry with the title of the film or television series.

Title of Source (Movie). Name of Contributor(s) (Directors*),* performance by (Actors), Distributor, Year of

Release.

Works Cited Example

The Grand Budapest Hotel. Directed by Wes Anderson, performance by Ralph Fiennes, Fox Searchlight

Pictures, 2014.

In-text Citation

Anderson draws impressive work from the actors who wring the most caricature moments

from the sublime interactions between each other and their surroundings ("The Grand Budapest

Hotel").

COMMENT

- If your paper focuses on the contribution of a specific person such as the actor, begin the Works Cited entry with their Lastname.
- If your paper is about a film or television series not focusing on an individual's contribution, begin the Works Cited entry with the title of the film or television series.
- Here are other common descriptions for contributors: Adapted by, Directed by, Edited by, Illustrated by, Introduction by, Narrated by, Performance by.
- MLA 8th allows writers to **add contributors** (cinematographers, performers, adapters, etc.) if they are important to the text of the paper. Include, at least, director or creator.

Audiovisual Media - TV Show

Works Cited - Basic Format

"Source." ("Episode Title.") *Title of Container* (*Series)*, Contributors (creator, director), season #, episode #,

Network, Broadcast Date.

Works Cited Example

"The Lorelais' First Day at Chilton." Gilmore Girls, directed by Arlene Sanford, season 1, episode 2,

Warner Bros., 5 October 2000.

In-text Citation Example

Promoted as a strong piece of family television delving into the complexities of a multi-generational family,

this episode opens with a rebellious teenage mother fleeing to a small town and raising her daughter

alone ("The Lorelais' First Day at Chilton").

COMMENT

- If your paper focuses on the contribution of a specific person such as the actor, begin the Works Cited entry with their Lastname. If your paper is about a film or television series not focusing on an individual's contribution, begin the Works Cited entry with the title of the film or television series.

Audiovisual - TV Show on the Web

Works Cited Basic Format

"Episode Title." *Title of Container (Series)*, season #, episode #, Network, Broadcast Date. *Name of*

Streaming Service, URL.

Works Cited Example

"Let the Good Times Roll." *One Mississippi*, season 1, episode 4, Amazon Studios, 9 September 2016.

Amazon Prime Video, www.primevideo.com/storefront/home/ref=dv_web_nav_logo.

In-text Citation Example

Characters continue confronting emotional barriers and psychological entanglements

reconciling living in the moment with morbidity ("Let the Good Times Roll").

Audiovisual - DVD

Works Cited Example

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Complete Fourth Season*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by

Sarah Michelle Gellar, episode 10, Twentieth Century Fox, 2003, disc 3.

In-text Citation Example

Gellar and cast are overwhelmingly silent throughout this entire episode communicating by

using white boards, pantomime, and gesturing.

Videos, Online (YouTube, Vimeo)

Works Cited

"Henri 2: Pas de Deux." *YouTube*, uploaded by Will Braden, 6 April 2012,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q34z5dCmC4M.

In-text Citation

Henri's charm, aloof character, and comedic nature continues with this third installment of

the artist Henri le Chat Noir.

Essay or Paper Example

COMMENT
Works Cited list appears at the end of the essay or research paper on a new page, continuing the pagination from the text of the paper. Center the title Works Cited and alphabetize the entries by the surname of the author. Format entries with a hanging indent and double-space all entries.
MLA style does not require a title page; however, check with your instructor for their requirements.

View a MLA style first year paper at https://style.mla.org/files/2016/03/mla-sample-paper-first-year.pdf.

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

CAA 1209

18 Apr. 2017

> MLA style does not require a title page; however, student and instructor name, course number, and date are placed at the top of the first page in left margin and double-spaced.

<div align="center">Full Title of Research Paper in Times New Roman, Size 12 Font.</div>

Begin the first paragraph of your research paper with a half-inch indent. Your first sentence immediately follows the title.

Indent each following paragraph a half-inch. Incorporate your research into the body of your work supporting your arguments and ideas and citing the sources used. To emphasize the point and emphatically support your argument, use direct quotes that "duplicate the original source word for word" (Denby 35). While conducting research, you will consider ideas, integrate those ideas with your own knowledge, and then write the idea in your own words. That is paraphrasing another's ideas and needs an in-text citation (Mallon 204).

At the end of your paper on a separate sheet, you will alphabetically list all of your sources by the first author's last name in a Works Cited list.

Works Cited

The Works Cited list is placed at end of paper on a separate page.

Works Cited

Dali, Salvador. *The Little Theater*. Accession no. 57.1981, Museum of Modern Art, New York. *ARTstor*.

Denby, David. "Ordinary People." *The New Yorker,* vol. 89, no. 47, 3 Feb. 2014. *Literature Resource Center.*

Ford, Matt. "Four Names of Four New Elements." *The Atlantic*, 9 June 2016,

  www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2016/06/four-names-for-four-new-elements/486362.

Mallon, Thomas. "The Great War." *Modernism Reconsidered,* edited by Robert Kiely, Harvard UP, 1983,

  pp. 202-8. Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*, edited by Jeff Hunter, vol. 35, Gale, 2000, pp. 81-99.

"Materials for Teachers." *Poets.org*., charmian Academy of American Poets. Accessed 23 May 2016.

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. "Just Memory: War and the Ethics of Remembrance." *American Literary History*,

  vol. 25, no. 1, 2013, pp. 144-163. *Humanities Source*, doi:10.1093/alh/ajs069.

Smith, Elena, James M. Whitaker, and Jonathan I. Harper. *History of Crime and Justice in the United States*.

  Texas UP, 2010.