

MLA Format

Citing & Giving Credit to Sources



This short guide describes how to cite commonly used sources in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. For sources not listed here, refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th ed.). Copies of this book are available at the **Reserve Desk (PE1478 M165 2016)**. If you need further help, ask the Reference Librarian. Some examples are taken directly from the *MLA Handbook*.

In-Text Citation

References in the text of your paper must clearly point to specific sources in the list of Works Cited. For more examples of in-text citations, see pp. 54-58, and 116-127 in the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.).

Author's name is not in the Sentence:

The effects of ultraviolet radiation may be harmful to people who are not protected (Davidson 71).

Author's Name is in the Sentence or Citation listing author appears earlier in the same paragraph:

Researcher John Davidson contends that "exposure to radiation is a constant risk" (71).

More than One Work by the Same Author:

One theory asserts that "any level of sun exposure" may cause cancer (Standish, *Skin Cancer* 145).
Sunscreens insulate and protect the skin (Standish, *Cancer and You* 334).

Two Authors:

Economists blame sunburn for the recent economic slump (Barnes and Smith 377-79).

Three Authors:

Recent studies show an increase in sugar consumption in teens (Mitchel et al. 84).

No Author Listed:

An increase in sunscreen sales indicates a growing awareness of cancer risk (*Sunscreen* 71).
Tanning beds cause premature wrinkles and increase the risk of skin cancer ("The Perfect Tan" 42).

No Page Numbers (e.g. electronic resources):

When a source has no page numbers or any other kind of paragraph or part number, no number should be given in a parenthetical citation. For example:

Researcher Ann Taylor notes that "one size fits all."
Sunscreen Facts reports that sunscreen use has increased over the past 20 years (Jones).
In the conclusion of their report, the Sunscreen Association recommends reapplying sunscreen.

Works Cited Page

Citations are created using Core Elements. Entries are listed in alphabetical order by the first element in each citation. Indent all lines of each entry one-half inch (or five spaces) except the first line. Double space each entry.

For more examples of Works Cited, see pp. 20-53 in the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.).

Works Cited are sources that you borrowed from for direct quotations. Sources that you consulted but did not include in the body of your work are considered to be **Works Consulted** and are not listed in the Works Cited page.

Core Elements

The core elements of any citation should be listed in the following order. If an element is missing, it is acceptable to skip it.

Author. Title. Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication

Date, Location.

Other than Author and Title, each element should be followed by a comma unless it is the final element, which is followed by a period. Every citation should follow this format regardless of what the source is.

Author's Name

This is the person or people primarily responsible for the work. It could be an author, an editor, a translator, a blogger, an organization, or someone else. The author element is listed alphabetically by the author's last name.

Wallace, David Foster
King, Martin Luther, Jr.
American Architectural Manufacturers Association

If no author is listed or the work is anonymous do not use "anonymous." Begin the citation with the **Title** and list it alphabetically in the Works Cited by its **Title**.

Title

List the title in full exactly as it appears in the source. Use *italics*. For example: *Of Mice and Men*

Title of Container

If the title appears in a larger work (container), then the title is surrounded by "quotation marks" and the *Title of Container* is in *italics*. For example:

"Why We Fall for Fake News." *Newsweek*,
"Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) – Topic Overview." *WebMD*,

Other Contributors

List any additional people who also contributed to the work and who are relevant to your paper. Use the following format: Translated by, Edited by, Directed by, Performed by, etc. For example:

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*. Translated by Stanley Corngold, 2013 ed., Modern Library, 1915.

Version and Volume

If the work you are citing has an edition or version, it is listed here. Follow this information with volume or issue numbers. For example:

30 Nov. 2016
vol. 21, no. 7, 3 Feb. 2017
3rd ed.

Publisher

This is the organization or company responsible for making the work you are citing available to the public. For example:

McGraw-Hill
WordPress

Publication Date

For texts, the **Publication Date** is listed either on the title page or the copyright page. List as much of the date as you are provided. If you are citing information found on the Web such as comments posted or a twitter feed, list the complete date followed by the time. For example:

25 Sept. 2014, 10:42 p.m.

2017

Aug. 2006

Location

The **Location** of the work refers to a URL, a tumblr account, a database link, or other location information.

Many scholarly journal articles found in databases include a DOI (digital object identifier). If a DOI is available, cite the DOI number instead of the URL.

Some online resources provide a "permalink," which is a shortened, stable version of a URL. Look for a "share" or "cite this" button to see if a source includes a permalink. If you can find a permalink, use that instead of a URL.

Date Accessed

For electronic resources, indicate the date you used it. For example:

Accessed 4 May 2017.

Selected Works Cited Examples:

Books

Single author:

Welland, Michael. *Sand: The Never-Ending Story*. 3rd ed., U of California Berkeley P, 2009.

Two authors:

Welland, Michael, and Joe Cummings.

Three or more authors:

Welland, Michael, et al.

A Work in a larger work:

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*, edited by Paula R.

Feldman, Johns Hopkins UP, 1997, pp. 472-82.

Websites

Hollmichel, Stephanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com. Accessed 23 July 2016.

Article on a Website

Hollmichel, Stephanie. "The Reading Brain." *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013,

somaneybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain/. Accessed 23 July 2016.

Videos on the Internet

"San Diego Trolley Crossing Over the Sweetwater River." *Youtube*, Chula Vista Productions, 2 Mar 2009, www.youtube.com/watch?chula-vista=5414vjw. Accessed 12 May 2015.

Tweet

@persiankiwi. "We have reports of battles in the east & west of Tehran now - #Iranelection." *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/5431354. Accessed 4 Jul. 2016.

Library and Online Databases

Periodical Articles in Databases

Ybarra, Michele L. et al. "Linkages Between Internet and Other Media Violence with Seriously Violent Behavior by Youth." *Pediatrics*, vol. 122, no.5, 2008, pp. 929-37. *Academic Search Premier*, doi: 10.1542/peds.2007-3377. Accessed 13 May 2015.

E-Books and Book Chapters in Databases

Soloman, Greta. *Just Write It! : How to Develop Top-class University Writing Skills*. McGraw Hill Education, 2013.

EBSCOhost E-book Collection, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=524881&site=ehost-live. Accessed 7 Aug. 2016.

"A Hand and a Home for Pregnant Addicts." *Medicine, Health, and Bioethics: Essential Primary Sources*, edited by K. Lee Lerner and Brenda Wilmoth Lerner, Gale, 2006, pp. 317-320. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, swcproxy.swccd.edu:2048/login?url=http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3456500122/OVIC?u=chul27032&xid=0df84886. Accessed 10 Jan. 2017.

Visual Art in Databases

Chagall, Marc. *The Poet with the Birds*. 1911, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, *ARTstor*, library.artstor.org/library/ExternalIV.jsp?objectId=8D1Efjk2ODA0KyYrZD5%2FXnVHXnogd194fyI%3D. Accessed 8 Nov. 2016.

Miscellaneous Sources

Emails

Boyle, Anthony T. "RE:Utopia." Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 2013.

Personal Interview

Jacobs, William. Personal Interview, 6 May 2016, Royal Mark Hotel, New York.