

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):

Refer to internal headings (chapter, section) or paragraph numbers (abbreviate as "ch.", "chs." "sec" or "secs." "par." or "pars."):

Sunscreens provide "free cosmetic surgery" (Holmes, sec. 4).

When a source has no page numbers or any other kind of part number, no number should be given in a parenthetical citation. Do not count unnumbered paragraphs or other parts:

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 (see below). Entries are listed in alphabetical order by the first element in each citation. If no author is given, alphabetize by the first word of the entry. Indent all lines of each entry one-half inch (or five spaces) except the first line. For more examples of Works Cited, see pp. 20-53 in the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed).

Works Cited are only sources that you borrowed from. Sources that you consulted but did not include in the body of your work are not listed in the Works Cited list. You may include a "Works Consulted" at the approval of your instructor.

Core Elements (see p. 20)

The core elements of any citation should be listed in the following order;

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, in which case follow with a period. An element should be omitted if it is not relevant to documenting the work. Every citation should follow this format regardless of what the source is.

Author's name

This is the person or persons primarily responsible for the work. This could be an author, an editor, a translator, or even a blogger. The author element should always be listed as below; (see p. 21)

If no author is listed or the work is anonymous do not use "anonymous." Rather just begin the citation with the title and list it alphabetically by that element.

Title

List the title in full exactly as it appears in the source. (see p. 25)

The title is listed in *italics* unless it appears in a larger work (container). If so then the title is surrounded by ""s and the container title is in *italics*.

If a subtitle is listed then separate the title and subtitle with :

Title of Container

If your source does not stand alone it is contained in another work. This larger work becomes the **Title of Container**. (see p. 30)

Other Contributors

This is your opportunity to list any people who also contributed to the work, beyond the previously listed author. (see p. 37)

Version and Volume

If the work you are citing listed an edition number or version it is listed here. That would then be followed by any numbering such as volume or issue numbers. (pp. 38-39)

Publisher

This is the organization or company responsible for making the work you are citing available to the public. (p. 40)

Note: A blog network may be considered the publisher of a blog it hosts.

Publication Date

For texts the date of publication is listed either on the title page or the copyright page. Books usually list only the year of publication. Journal articles usually list a month and year. Newspapers will list a day, month, and year.

List as much of the date as you are provided. (p. 42)

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.

Location

In previous editions of MLA the location might refer to the city location that a text was published. It is no longer necessary to list the city of publication. Use the location to further explain where the work can be found. (p. 46)

Additional optional information may be included in your citation

It may be necessary to include additional information in your citation to assist in the locating of your source. (p. 52)

These are all the elements to build a citation. The following is a list of examples of types of citations commonly seen.

Books

Single author:

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

Two authors are listed Welland, Michael, and Joe Cummings. Three or more are listed 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.

Periodicals

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly*, vol. 13, no. 3, 1981, pp. 77-80.

Weintraub, Arlene, and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year Plan for Nuclear Waste." *Business Week*, 6 May 2002, pp. 94-96.

Electronic Publications

Websites

Hollmichel, Stephanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com. Accessed 23 July 2015.

Article on a website

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

somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain/. Accessed 23 July 2015.

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 2009.

Twitter Feed

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

Library and Online Databases

Periodical Articles

Goldstein, Andrew. "A Win for the Kitties." *Time*, vol. 264, 24 June 2002, p. 20. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*, www.opposingviewpoints.org/time/574534vgf. Accessed 13 May 2009.

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*, www.academicsearchpremier.edu/search/?289267vjd. Accessed 13 May 2015.

Books

Koplan, Jeffrey and Vivica I. Kraak. *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*. National Academies Press, 2005. *NetLibrary*, www.netlibrary.org/5437fh.

"Fusel Oil." *Benders' Dictionary of Nutrition and Food Technology*. Edited by David A. Bender and Arnold E. Bender, Woodhead P, 2006. www.NetLibrary.org/bender/8564ur.

Visual Art

Chagall, Marc. *The Poet with the Birds*. 1911, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, *ARTstor*, www.artstor.org/stable/876468.

Miscellaneous Print and Nonprint Sources

Emails

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

Personal Interview

Jacobs, William. Interview, by Sarah Way, 6 May 2016.

Jones, Nora. Interview, by Bob Smith, 25 Aug. 2014.