MLA 9th Edition Handout

As a citation style, MLA (Modern Language Association) allows you to document the sources you use in your paper. In the body of your paper, you apply **in-text citations** when you incorporate the ideas or words of other authors into your discussion. At the end of your paper on the **Works Cited** page, you create a list of all the sources you used.
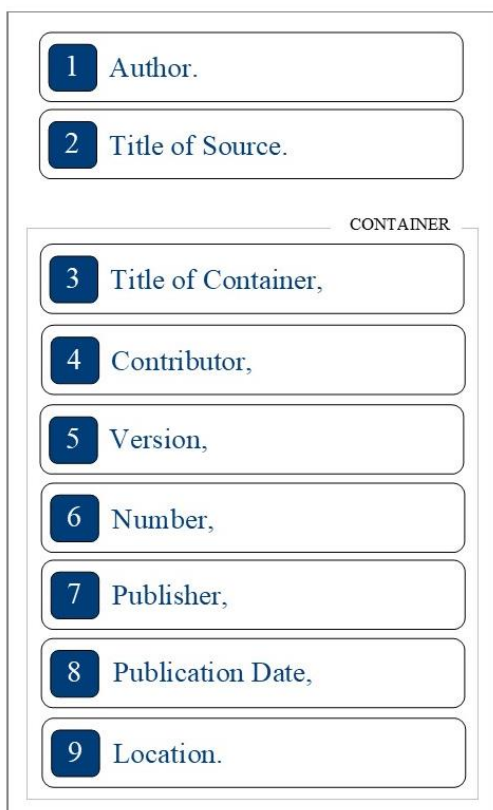
Why Cite?

Using citations helps you avoid plagiarism, which is what happens when you present someone else's ideas as your own. When you use citations, you give credit to your source and tell the reader how they can find the information you used.

MLA Citations

Every piece of work (e.g., essay, book, play, movie, tweet) has *core elements* or facts that are common to most sources (e.g., Author, Title, Publication Date). These core elements are listed in standard order, as shown in the MLA Template below.

MLA Template

1 Author.

2 Title of Source.

CONTAINER

3 Title of Container,

4 Contributor,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication Date,

9 Location.

Adapted from *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

- There are 9 elements; only use elements relevant to your source (see citation examples below).
- Each element is followed by a punctuation—either a *comma* (,) or a *period* (.).
- Element 1 is Author, followed by a period.
- Element 2 is Title of Source, followed by a period. **Each work will always have a Title**.
- Elements 3-9 provide more information about your source. These elements are separated by commas, with the last element ending in a period. Some sources may be part of a larger work or **container**. For example, if you're citing a chapter in an edited book, the book would be the Container. For sources that are **self-contained** (i.e., stand-alone works, such as a novel), element 3 (Title of Container) will be left blank.
- A source can be contained in more than one container. For example, your source may be a journal article you found through a database. The **first container is the journal** (which contains the article) and **the second container is the database** (which contains the journal).

Key Things to Note

- There is more than one way to create a citation.
- In creating your citations, evaluate which elements are relevant to your source.
- Provide enough information for your reader to locate the source.

Additional Resources

For detailed information and more examples, consult BC's Citing Using MLA 9 LibGuide (https://bellevuecollege.libguides.com/MLA_9), the MLA Style Center (https://style.mla.org/), or the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition (Call number: LB2369 .M52 2021).

Below are citation examples of common formats to help you in creating your citations. Each entry includes elements relevant to the source. At the end of this handout is a table with guidelines from the *MLA* about formatting each core element. The following citation examples are guides; follow the specific instructions given by your instructor.

Guidelines

- Your Works Cited page is on a separate page at the end of your research paper. The words *Works Cited* are centered at the top of the page (not italicized).
- Use double-spacing within and between entries, and between the Works Cited title and your first entry.

- If an entry is more than one line, keep the first line left-justified (not indented) and use a hanging indent for each additional line.
- Entries are listed in alphabetical order by author last name. If there is no author, alphabetize by the first word of the source's title.

Books

Book with One Author
Author. *Title of Source*. Version, Publisher, Publication Date.
Kleiner, Fred S. *Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Global History*. 16th ed., Cengage Learning, 2020.

Book with Two Authors
Author. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication Date.
Kim, Anatasia S., and Alicia del Prado. *It's Time to Talk (and Listen).* New Harbinger Publications, 2019.

Book with an Editor
Editor. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication Date.
Ziegler, Alan, editor. *Short: An Anthology of Five Centuries of Short-Stories, Prose Poems, Brief Essays, and Other Short Prose Forms*. Persea Books, 2014.

E-book Edition
Author. *Title of Source*. Version, Publisher, Publication Date.
Orange, Tommy. *There There*. E-book ed., Vintage Books, 2019.

E-book from a Database with Permalink
Author. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication Date. *Title of Container*, Location.
Smith, Scott T., and José Alaniz, editors. *Uncanny Bodies: Superhero Comics and Disability*. Penn State UP, 2019. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2332274&site=ehost-live.

Chapter from an Edited Book
Author. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Contributor, Publisher, Publication Date, Location. *Title of Container*, Location.
Bowden, Sarah. "Echo: The Silence Between the Notes." *Uncanny Bodies: Superhero Comics and Disability*, edited by Scott T. Smith and José Alaniz, Penn State UP, 2019, pp. 79-94. *EBSCOhost,* search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2332274&site=ehost-live.

Articles

Reference Article from a Database with No Author
Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Publisher, Publication Date, Location. *Title of Container*, Location.
"Continent." *Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia*, World Book, 2018, p. 1. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=funk&AN=co206900&site=ehost-live.
Article from a Magazine
Author. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Publication Date, Location.
Bernstein, Fred A. "Experiments in Nature." *Interior Design*, Nov. 2021, pp. 112-119.
Note: The Publisher element can be left blank for ongoing publications (magazines, newspapers, journals).
Journal Article from a Database with DOI and with Three Authors
Author. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Number, Publication Date, Location. *Title of Container*, Location.
Neppl, Tricia K., et al. "The Impact of Economic Pressure on Parent Positivity, Parenting, and Adolescent Positivity into Emerging Adulthood." *Family Relations*, vol. 64, no. 1, Feb. 2015, pp. 80-92. *JSTOR*, https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12098.
Note: Precede DOI with http:// or https:// (e.g., https://doi.org/) if this part is missing from your source.
News Article from a Database
Author. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Publication Date, Location. *Title of Container*, Location.
Grode, Eric. "Send in the Tunes: 20 of Sondheim's Best." *The New York Times*, 30 Nov. 2021, p. C2. *ProQuest*, proquest.com/newspapers/send-tunes-20-sondheims-best/docview/2604290588/se-2?accountid=35840.
News Article from a Website
Author. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Publication Date, Location.
Harvey, Fiona. "World's Vast Networks of Underground Fungi to Be Mapped for the First Time." *The Guardian*, 30 Nov. 2021, www.theguardian.com/science/2021/nov/30/worlds-vast-networks-of-underground-fungi-to-be-mapped-for-first-time.

Other Types of Sources

Painting Viewed Online
Author. *Title*. Date (of composition). *Title of Container*, Publisher, Location.
Caillebotte, Gustave. *Paris Street; Rainy Day*. 1877. *The Art Institute of Chicago*, www.artic.edu/artworks/20684/paris-street-rainy-day.
Note: Publisher omitted because it is essentially the same name as the website.
Tweet
Author account name [online handle]. Quoted text. *Title of Container*, Publication Date, Location.
King County DNRP [@KCDNRP]. "Thank you volunteers for your work! Simply put, volunteers make our parks, trails & open spaces better. Join @kingcountyparks for a volunteer planting event!" *Twitter*, 30 Nov. 2021, twitter.com/KCDNRP/status/1465754226303275012.

Other Types of Sources, Continued

Television Episode Viewed on a Website
"Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Number, Publisher, Publication Date. *Title of Container*, Location.
"Cake Week." *The Great British Baking Show*, collection 5, episode 1, Love Productions, 2017. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com/watch/81001542?trackId=13752289.
YouTube Video
Author (if known or separate from uploader). Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Uploader, Date, Location.
Plait, Phil. "Introduction to Astronomy: Crash Course Astronomy #1." *YouTube*, uploaded by CrashCourse, 15 Jan. 2015, https://youtu.be/0rHUDWjR5gg.
Lecture Attended in Person
Instructor. Title of lecture if known or generic descriptor (Lecture). Name of class, Date of lecture, Name of College. Supplemental information (if needed for clarity).
Schewe, Michelle. "Using *Gale in Context: Biography*." ESL 066, 15 Nov. 2021, Bellevue College. Library instruction session.
Note: Names of courses are not italicized.
Lecture Attended Online
Instructor. Title of lecture if known or generic descriptor (Lecture). Name of class, Date of lecture, Location. Supplemental information (if needed for clarity).
Schewe, Michelle. "Using *Gale in Context: Biography*." ESL 066, 15 Nov. 2021, online. Library instruction session.
Interview You Conducted
Author (name of interviewee). Description. Date.
Smith, John. Personal interview with the author. 27 November 2019.
Government Publication from Webpage
Author. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication Date, Location.
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, Climate Change Program Office. *U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Plan*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2014, https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_FULL.pdf.
Note: Refer to pages 344-346 of the *MLA Handbook* for examples of documenting legal works.

A Note on Supplemental Elements

Supplemental elements provide additional information that may be useful to your reader. If you choose to include them, they are generally inserted after the Title of Source element if the information does not pertain to the entry as a whole (e.g., original publication date of source that is part of a larger work) or at the end of the entry (e.g., date of access). If including more than one item of information, separate each item with a comma and end with a period. Find more information on supplemental elements in the *MLA* 9 Handbook (pp. 208-217).

Book with Supplemental Elements

Author. *Title of Source*. Contributor, Publisher, Publication Date. Supplemental information.

Austen, Jane. *The Oxford Illustrated Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice.* Edited by R.W. Chapman, Oxford UP, 1988.
Vol. 2 of *The Oxford Illustrated Jane Austen*, 6 vols.

In-Text Citation Examples

In-text citations give credit to the authors whose ideas, illustrations, words, or quotes are used in your discussion and direct the reader to your works-cited list where they can find the full citation for your source. This is usually done by referencing the first item of your works-cited list entry—usually the author's surname or, if without an author, the title or description. Additionally, in-text citations can provide the location of what you are referencing, such as the page number of a specific quote. In-text citations can be written out in your prose or included inside parentheses (parenthetical citations), depending on how you introduce the works of other authors into your discussion. The following are a few examples of how to create in-text citations.

When author is mentioned in your prose; location of quote in parentheses

The opening line of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* may be one of the most recognized opening lines in English literature: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife" (3).

Note: Write author names in full when first mentioned in your discussion; you can then use their surname (last name) throughout the rest of the paper; leave out *p.* before the page number.

When citing two authors in citation

One poignant perspective about engaging in difficult but meaningful constructive conversations is that we must focus on both external (e.g., word choice) and internal (e.g., personality) processes (Kim and del Prado xiii-xiv).

Note: There is no comma between author names and page numbers.

When a source from a website has no page numbers, list only author's name in citation

Because of their role in soil fertility, underground fungal networks have been referred to as "the circulatory system of the planet" (Harvey).

When the source is a time-based media; time-stamp in parentheses

At the start of this new season, new judge Prue Leith shared some of her perspectives on baking, stating that "baking is such a treat, but it has to be the very best, and it has to be worth the calories" ("Cake Week" 00:01:34-40).

Note: The Work Cited citation for this example does not have an author; the title of the source is used instead. Time-stamps for time-based media are formatted according to hours:minutes:seconds.

When quoting four or more lines of poetry (block quotations)

> We've braved the belly of the beast.
>
> We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,
>
> And the norms and notions of what "just is"
>
> > Isn't always justice (Gorman 12).

Note:

- Indent a half an inch from the left margin.
- If there is unusual spacing, replicate it as best you can.
- In-text citation is placed at the end of the last line being quoted (as shown in this example) or, if there is not enough space, on the next line and flushed toward the right margin.
- This quotation is taken from a book with page numbers; other sources of poetry may be cited as verses, sonnets, lines, etc. (e.g., lines 20-23). For more information, see pp. 255-258 of the *MLA 9 Handbook*.

Author.	• The creator, entity, government, or organization primarily responsible for creating the work • If the author's name is in a form that can be reversed (i.e., has a family name or surname), write their Last name first, followed by a comma, followed by First name—e.g., Kleiner, Fred S. • For two authors, reverse the first author's name, followed by a comma, the word *and*, followed by the second author's name (First then Last or as written in your source)—e.g., Kim, Anatasia S., and Alicia Del Prado. • For three or more authors, reverse the first author's name, followed by a comma, the words *et al*, followed by a period—e.g., Neppl, Tricia K., et al.
Title of Source.	• If no Title is given, provide a description of the work. • Capitalize the first, last, and all principal words and end with a period. • *Italicize* the Title if the work is self-contained (e.g., book, play, movie, manuscript, performance of a play). • Place quotation marks ("…") around the Title if the work is contained in a container (e.g., chapter in an edited book, article in a journal, episode of a TV series).
Title of Container,	• If the work is self-contained, this element is left blank. • *Italicize* the name of the Container (e.g., *The New York Times*).
Contributor,	• List key contributors: translators, editors, film directors, music conductors, performing groups (e.g., dance companies, choirs). These contributors can be listed in the Author element if your discussion focuses on their contributions. • Other types of contributors may also be listed if they're important for identifying a source, help shape the work, or if your discussion focuses on their contribution (e.g., audio book narrator, singer, actor).
Version,	• Examples: edition (e.g., 2nd ed.) or revised edition (rev. ed.); an e-book version (an e-book lacks a URL and needs software to read on a personal electronic device, such as on a Kindle) • Abbreviate *revised* (rev.), *edition* (ed.); take away superscript (e.g., 6th ed. instead of 6th ed.) • Proper nouns are capitalized like Titles and are not abbreviated (e.g., King James Version).
Number,	• For sources that use a numbering system (e.g., journals, newspapers, multivolume work, comic books) • Examples: vol. 1, no. 2; season 8, episode 1
Publisher,	• The entity that is primarily responsible for producing or making the work available (e.g., publisher of a book, production company, broadcasting network, theater company, government agency that produced a document, entity responsible for content on a website) • This element is left blank for periodicals (ongoing publications), self-published works, and websites with the same name as their publishers (e.g., Modern Language Association). • Omit initial articles (*The*) and business words [e.g., *Corporation* (*Corp.*), *Company* (*Co.*), *Incorporated* (*Inc.*), *Limited* (*Ltd.*)]. • Abbreviate the words *University Press* (*UP*); however, spell out *Press* if only the word *Press* is in the name without the word *University.*
Publication Date,	• When the work was published (e.g., date of composition, date of revision or upload, when viewed or heard firsthand); use the label *forthcoming* for a work not yet published • If there is more than one Publication Date, select the most recent one of the version you are citing. • Abbreviate names of months longer than four letters (e.g., Jan., Feb., Mar.) • For e-books, provide only the year. • Examples: year (2015), day and month (24 Dec. 2016), season (fall 2014), or time stamp (1:31 p.m.)
Location.	• Depending on the format of a work, examples can be a page (p. 4), page range (pp. 201-250), DOI, permalink, URL, where the work was viewed or heard, or disc number of a DVD set. • In order of preference for website Locations: DOI, permalink, URL • Ensure that a DOI is preceded by http:// or https:// (e.g., https://doi.org). • Can omit protocol (http:// or https://) unless you want to create a hyperlink or if your software program does not allow a URL without a protocol.