Short handout for MLA Citation (8th ed.)


IN-TEXT CITATION – (MLA 54-58, 116-127)

Give credit to authors whose words, facts, or ideas you are using in your essay. Format = (author's last name + space + page number). If no page number: (author's last name). If no author, use (the abbreviated title + page number). For video or audio recording, use (hours : minutes : seconds) format. See examples below:

1 author = (Fox 160) | 2 = (Burke and Lee 36, 45) | 3+ = (Engel et al. 215-7) | no author = (“The Estate Tax Debate” 102-113) | no page number = (Rodin) | video or audio = (King 11:54)

WORKS CITED PAGE (appears at the end of the paper on a new page with the title, Works Cited, in the center, an inch from the top of the page)

- Double-space throughout. Alphabetize all entries by author.
- Invert the name of the first author. If no author is listed, begin with the title (ignoring the beginning "A", "An" or "The)
- Use hanging indentation for each entry.
- Italicize titles of databases and independent works such as plays, books, periodicals, and websites.
- Enclose in quotation marks titles of articles, chapters, essays, poems & short stories.
- Capitalized all words in any title, except articles, prepositions, or conjunctions when they fall in the middle of a title.
- Use abbreviation vol. for volume number, no. for issue number.
- Page number format is (p. 16) for one page and (pp. 16-18) for a range of pages. For non-consecutive pages, use (p. 16+).
- Abbreviate all months except May, June, and July.
- Leave out the http:// or https:// when entering url.

9 CORE ELEMENTS

- Determine the following from each source:
  - Who is the author? What is the title? How was the source published? Where did you find the source? When was the source published?
  - Each entry in the Works Cited is composed of facts in a particular order. Locate the information relevant to the source cited. Skip over missing facts as needed to accurately describe the source.
  - If the source is part of a larger whole, the larger whole is defined as the “container” that holds the source. For example: a short story within an anthology, an article in a print book, an e-book in a database, a video on a database or YouTube, an article in a journal (container 1) which is in a database (container 2), etc.

Put the 9 Core Elements together:

Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

SOURCES WITH ONE AUTHOR – (MLA 21)

Invert the name of the author listed.

BOOK CITATION: 1 Author’s Last name, First name. 2 Title of source (book title). 3 Edition if any, 7 Publisher, 8 Publication date.

Example:
1 Seife, Charles. 2 Virtual Unreality: Just Because the Internet Told You, How Do You Know It’s True? 7 Viking, 8 2014.

ARTICLE CITATION: 1 Author Last name, First name. 2 “Title of source.”(article title) 3 Title of container (journal /magazine/ newspaper title, or title of anthology/ reference book/ poetry or essay collection), 8 Publication date, 9 Location (page numbers).

Example:

SOURCES WITH TWO AUTHORS – (MLA 21) First Author’s Last name, First name, and Second Author’s name in direct order.

BOOK CITATION example:

ARTICLE CITATION example:
1 Singer, Peter, and Jim Mason. 2 "Are We What We Eat?” 3 Soundings, 8 2006, 9 p. 67.

SOURCES WITH THREE OR MORE AUTHORS – (MLA 22) First Author’s Last name, First name, et al.

BOOK CITATION example:

ARTICLE CITATION example:
**E-BOOK**

Similar to the entry for a comparable printed work, but add the e-book version if known (MLA.org)


Example:


If the e-book is retrieved from Google Books, Project Gutenberg, database, etc., add container information (MLA 31-35).


Example:


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**JOURNAL, MAGAZINE, OR NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM A SUBSCRIPTION DATABASE OR PUBLISHER’S WEBSITE** – (MLA 31-32)

**CITATION:** 1. Author’s Last name, First name. 2. “Title of source (article title).” 3. *Title of container 1,* 4. Publication date, 5. Location (page numbers). 6. *Title of container 2* (database or the website’s name if different from the Title of container 1 ), 7. Location (DOI or URL). Accessed date.

Example:


**VIDEO (Dvd, YouTube, library subscription, etc.) (MLA 24, 28, 30, 33, 39, 49)**

**CITATION for DVD:** 1. Author/Contributor’s Last name, First name. 2. *Title of source.* 3. Publisher, 4. Publication date (release date).

Example:


**CITATION for Video from YouTube or Database:** 1. Author/Contributor’s Last name, First name. 2. "Title of source." 3. *Title of container (website or database if any),* 4. Publisher, 5. publication date (release date), 6. location (url). Accessed date.

Example:


**WEBPAGE (MLA 41-45, 48, 53, 2.5.2)**

**CITATION:** 1. Author’s Last name, First name. 2. “Title of source.” 3. *Title of container (website),* 4. Publisher (or sponsor of site), 5. Publication date, 6. Location (url). Accessed date.

Example:


**SOURCES WITHOUT TITLE** [untitled interview, artwork, etc.] (MLA 28-29)

“Provide a generic description of the source, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks. Capitalize the first word of the description and any proper nouns in it.”

**CITATION for UNTITLED INTERVIEW:** 1. Interviewer’s Last name, First name. 2. The kind of interview. 3. Date of interview.

Example:


**CITATION for UNTITLED ARTWORK:** 1. Artist’s Last Name, First Name. 2. Generic description of the work. 3. Year the work created, 4. Location of the Work, City, State.

Example:


**EMAIL (MLA 29)**

**CITATION:** 1. Sender’s Last name, First name. 2. "Subject line of email." Received by (name of receiver), 3. Date of email.

Example:


**SOURCES WITH CORPORATE AUTHOR** (MLA 25, 2.1.3)

When a work’s author and publisher are different organizations, provide both names. When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, skip the author element and list the organization as the publisher.

**CITATION:** 2. "Title of source." (article or document title) 3. *Title of container (journal /magazine/ newspaper title/Website),* 4. Publisher (the organization’s name), 5. Publication date, 6. Location (page numbers or URL).

Example: