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, 4 Publisher, 5 Publication date.

Example:
1 Seife, Charles. 2 Virtual Unreality: Just Because the Internet Told You, How Do You Know It’s True? 3 Viking, 4 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), 4 Publication date, 5 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, 4 2006, 5 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: