MLA Style: 8th Edition

What is MLA Style?
MLA Style is used primarily in the humanities (for example English). MLA Style provides writers with a system for referencing their sources on a Works Cited page.

Overview of Changes to MLA 8th edition
In the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook, the focus was on many different publication formats -- (book, book chapter, journal article, webpage, YouTube video, etc.). Each format had its own set of rules for creating the citation.

In the new 8th edition, the focus is on core elements (author, title, date, etc.) common to most sources (book, eBook, journal article, etc.) and universal, flexible guidelines. Core elements are the basic pieces of information that should be common to all sources, from books to eBooks to articles to webpages to Tweets.

The nine MLA Style, 8th ed. core elements are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Can be one author or several authors, a group, or a corporate author (name of an organization, government agency, or institution).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Titles</td>
<td>Titles of articles, book chapters, web pages, TV episodes, etc. Both the title of the source and its container are included in a citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Containers</td>
<td>Books, journals, and websites are examples of containers. Container titles are titles of books, journals, newspapers, websites, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contributors</td>
<td>Editors, translators, etc. For example, edited by, translated by, and so on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versions</td>
<td>If different versions of the source exist, state which version is being cited. Versions include editions, director’s cuts, abridged, unabridged, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>The number is the issue, journal, or page of a journal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>The publisher is the company or organization responsible for creating the work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Date</td>
<td>If the full date is given, it would be day month year order, so 19 Aug. 2012, for example. If only a year is given, just cite the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>This is where you would list the URL of a website, the permalink assigned by a database, etc. In print sources with page numbers, use the page number (p. 56) or range (pp. 3 – 9).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Elements are shown in the order in which they should appear.
- If you cannot find one of the elements, don’t include it.
Common Types of Sources

The 8th edition of MLA does not require that students distinguish between the type of source. However, we have provided a few sample citations based on the type of source to use as models.

❖ Citing Print Books and eBooks

Print Book with One Author

Example: Author Last name, First Name. Book Title. Publisher, Year of publication.


Print Book with More than One Author

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name and all other authors First Name, Last Name. Book Title. Publisher, Year of publication.


Print Book Chapter

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name. “Book Chapter Title”. Book Title, Author or editor, Version, Publisher, Year of publication, Book chapter pages.

Sample citation:

Print Book by a Corporate Author

Example:
Author. Book Title. Publisher, Year of publication.

Sample citation:
E-Book from Online Database

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name. Book Title. Publisher, Year of publication. Database Title, URL. Date of access (optional).

Sample citation:

❖ Citing Electronic Sources

Citations of electronic sources share some traits with those of print publications, but often require additional information. The citation of a web address, also called a URL (uniform resource locator) is recommended. Including the date of access is optional.

Website Citation

Example:
Author Last name, First name. “Title of the Article or Individual Page.” Title of the website, Name of the publisher, Date of publication, URL. Date of access (optional).

Sample citation:

Web Page (Individual Page) on A Website

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name if available. “Title of Web Page.” Full Name of Website. Publisher, Date the page or site was published, URL.

Sample citation:

Note: A DOI (digital object identifier) remains attached to a source even if the URL changes. DOIs, when available, can be found in most databases underneath a text’s publishing information and abstract. When possible, citing a DOI is preferable to citing a URL (uniform resource locator). However, some sources before 2003 may not contain a DOI. In this case, use a URL if it is available.
Citing Electronic Sources (cont’d)

Scholarly Journal Article (with DOI) from Online Database

*Example:
Author Last Name, First Name and all other authors First Name, Last Name. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, Volume number, Issue number, Date Month Year of publication, page numbers. Database Title. DOI.

Sample citation:

Scholarly Journal Article (without DOI) from Online Database

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, Volume number, Issue number, Date Month Year of publication, page numbers. Database Title. URL.

Sample citation:

*If there are two authors, reverse only the name of the first author, add a comma, & give the other names in normal form. If there are more than two authors, list only the first author followed by et. al.

Newspaper Article from Online Database

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Title of Newspaper, Date Month Year of publication, section, page numbers. Database Title, DOI or URL.

Sample citation:
Citing Electronic Sources (cont’d)

Magazine Article from Online Database

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Title of Magazine, Date Month Year of publication, page numbers. Database Title. DOI or URL.

Sample citation:

Other Source Types

Published Interview in Magazine/Newspaper

Example:
Last Name, First Name of person interviewed. Title of Interview, if any. Name of Publication, Date, page numbers.

Sample citation:

*Personal Interview

Example:
Last Name, First Name of Interviewee. Interview (type: personal, telephone). By Interviewer. Date of Interview.


*If the interview was part of a publication, recording, or program place the title in quotation marks; if the interview was published independently, italicize the title. If the interview is untitled, use the descriptive label “Interview,” neither italicized nor in quotation marks.

Blog Post

Example: Author Last Name, First Name. “Title of Blog Post.” Title of Website/Blog, Publisher, Date, URL.

Sample citation:
Other Source Types (cont’d)

Online Video

Example:
Last name, First Name of video creator or username of creator. “Title of Video.” Title of the Hosting Website, Day, Month, Year of Publication, URL of Video.

Sample citation:

Podcast

Example: Author Last Name, First Name. “Title of Podcast.” Title of Website, Date, Publisher, URL.

Sample citation:

E-Mail

Example: Last name, first name of email author. “Title of Message.” Recipient. Day, Month, Year.

Sample citation:
Obama, Barack. “Re: Situation in Washington.” Received by Hillary Clinton. 15 Apr. 2015.

Song Lyrics from an Album, Found on a Website

Example:
Author Last Name, First Name, Lyricist. “Song Title,” Title of Album, Record Label, Album release year, Track number. Name of website, URL.

Sample citation:

Tweet / Twitter

Example:
Author (hashtag of the tweet). “Full Text of Message.” Twitter, Day, Month, Year, Time, URL of tweet.

Sample citation:
@Blklivesmatter. “Revolution is the Struggle to Make Freedom Possible”- the incredible @BarbaraRansby closing out #BlackFuturesMonth.” Twitter, 28 February 2017, 8:03 a.m., https://twitter.com/Blklivesmatter/status/836607644823666689.
Other Source Types (cont’d)

Digital Image On A Website

Example:
Creator’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of the Digital Image.” Title of the website, First Name, Last Name of any contributors, Version (if applicable), Number (if applicable), Publisher, Publication date, URL.

Sample citation:

DVD or Film

Example:
Title of Movie. Director’s First Name, Last Name. Performer(s) First Name(s), Last Name(s). Production Company, Year of Release.

Sample citation: