What is MLA Style?

MLA is short for Modern Language Association. MLA Style is used to format papers and to cite sources within the Liberal Arts and Humanities. This guide provides examples for citing sources in MLA Style, 8th ed. For the older edition, see MLA Style, 7th ed.

“Works Cited” Basics

**Step 1: Format your Works Cited page**

- Start a separate page at the end of your paper and title it: “Works Cited” at the center of the page.
- Double-space throughout the page.
- Begin the first line of the citation at the left margin and use hanging indent (5 spaces to the right) for all subsequent lines.
- Arrange all works cited in alphabetical order. Ignore beginning articles such as: “the,” “a,” and “an.”

**Step 2: Determine the type of source you are citing**

- Are you citing from a book, newspaper article, magazine article, journal article, or website?
- See the sections in this guide for the specific citation format for the resources.

**Step 3: Find the citation elements**

- **Author(s)** – List author by last name, first name.
  - Two authors— List the first author by last name, first name, and then list second authors in normal form (first name last name). Include the word, “and” before the last author.
  - Three authors or more – List the first author followed by "et al." [Example: Clark, David, et al.].
  - No author – when there is no author, start with the article title or the book title.
  - Pseudonyms – Some online sources may only provide a username or a pseudonym for the author. In this case, include the name that is provided.

- **Title of the work** – Capitalize all the main words.
  - Article title –Put the article title in “quotation marks” (i.e. chapter of a book, an article from a periodical)
  - Publication title – Put publication title in *italics* (i.e. title of a book, magazine, newspaper or journal)

- **Publication date & time** – Format dates as: Day Month Year. The month should be abbreviated except for May, June, July [Example: 29 Apr. 2016 and 12 July 2016]. If there is a specific time given in your source, include it in your citation.

- **Page numbers** – List the page (p.) and range for multiple pages (pp.). [Example: p. A1, pp. 132-51].

- **Online resources** – provide one of the following item:
  - DOI (Digital Object Identifier) – DOI is a unique string of numbers and letters assigned to a journal article to make them easier to locate. If your article has a DOI, include it in your citation. If there is no DOI, include the URL.
  - URL – Include the Web address of the source without “http://” or “https://”

- **Date accessed** – Include the date of access for any online resources, include “Accessed” before the date. Format dates as: Day Mon Year. [Abbreviate month except for May, June, and July.]
## Citation Format for Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s). “Chapter/Section Title.” [if using a part of the book; in quotation marks] Book Title [in italics]. Publisher, year of publication, pp. page numbers [if using a part of the book]. Name of the eBook Database [if online source], URL or web address [if online source].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Book with one author (print book)


### Book with more than two authors and an edition (eBook)


### A selection/chapter from an anthology or reference book with editor, edition and volume (eBook)


## Citation Format for Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s). “Article Title.” [in quotation marks] Periodical Title [in italics], date of publication, pp. page numbers. Name of the Database [in italics, if used], URL or web address [for online sources].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Newspaper article (printed source)


### Magazine article from an online database (online source)


### Scholarly Journal Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s). “Article Title.” [in quotation marks] Journal Title [in italics], vol. volume number, no. issue number, publication date, pp. page numbers. Name of Database [in italics, if used], DOI or URL [for online resources].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Journal article (printed source)


### Journal article from an online database with DOI (online source)


## Citation Format for Web Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s). “Webpage or Post Title.” [in quotation marks] Title of Website [in italics], Company or organization responsible for the site, date of publication or latest update, URL. Accessed date [Day Mon Year].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Webpage


### Webpage with no author


### Video from the Web


### A Tweet from Twitter