

Citing Sources in MLA Style

The Modern Language Association citation style is among the most widely used in academic institutions. For a research paper in literature, arts or any other discipline in humanities, MLA style will be the right choice for citing sources.

Information below is taken from the following MLA style manual: *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition. The Modern Language Association of America, 2016, and reflects the changes brought by this new edition.

The manual is located in the reference section of the library.
Call number: REF Z253.G53 2016.

MLA citation format is based on these core elements, common to most works:



Fig. 1. MLA core elements in their specific order, from: <https://style.mla.org/whats-new/>

Researchers are advised to follow these elements and their order as much as possible. The image above also provides the appropriate punctuation for each element.

Please note: **container** (element 3) is a space where a source is found. For example, an online article is found inside a journal and a library database.

For updates on citation formats consult MLA website: <http://www.mla.org>

Works Cited List

The Works Cited list is located at the end of research paper and contains complete citations of all the works mentioned by the researcher. To make works on the list easier to find, all entries are arranged in alphabetical order by the last name of the author/ editor/translator or the title of the source.

The list should be double-spaced, with a hanging indent, which means that the first line of each entry is made flush left with the margin. Subsequent lines in each entry should be indented one-half inch.

Examples of Entries

Document from an Internet Site

Farmer, Sam. "NFL to Use Sideline Tents for Medical Staff." *Los Angeles Times*,
3 Aug. 2017, 11:25 am, www.latimes.com/sports/nfl/la-sp-nfl-tents-20170803-story.html.

Note: The URL is now normally given without http:// or https://; citing the date when an online work was accessed is now optional; the names of months that are longer than four letters are abbreviated

E-mail message

Cahill, Thomas. "Meeting Notes." Received by John Preston, 21 July 2017.

Note: Use the subject as the title

Blog

Oulton, Emma. *Why Sybill Trelawney Deserves a Little More Respect According to Pottermore*. Bustle, Aug. 2017, www.bustle.com/p/sybill-trelawney-deserves-a-little-more-respect-according-to-pottermore-74356.

Note: Blog is now considered a publisher

Tweet

@CareyAtHearst. "Digital Age is Here to Stay." *Twitter*, 1 Aug. 2017, 11:21a.m.,
twitter.com/Hearst.

Note: Use Twitter hashtags as regular authors' names; if a message is untitled, reproduce the text of the message instead of the title

Articles from Electronic Periodicals

Oliver, Virginia. "Literary Landscapes of Hispanic California." *California Geographer*, vol. 20, 1980, pp. 53-62. *Academic Search Complete*,
www.library.oit.edu:2443/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=23004748&site=ehost-live

Note: For articles from library databases: italicize both containers: journal title and database title; if there is no Digital Object Identifier (DOI), use of permalink instead of a URL is preferable

O'Malley, Meagan et al. "School Climate, Family Structure, and Academic Achievement: A Study of Moderation Effects." *School Psychology Quarterly*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2015, pp. 142-157. *PsycARTICLES*,
dx.doi.org/10.1037/spq0000076.

Note: issues of scholarly journals are now identified with "vol. 30, no. 1" rather than "30.1"; use DOIs in place of URLs, if available

Thierer, Adam D. "The Media Cornucopia." *City Journal*, Spring 2007, www.city-journal.org/html/media-cornucopia-13011.html.

Note: If a journal issue is dated with a month or season, cite both along with the year

Updated 08/2017

Wilke, Carolyn and Natalie Cole. "Celebrating Books through Writing Letters about Literature in California." *CSLA Journal*, vol. 27, no. 2, Spring 2004, pp. 10-11. *Academic Search Complete*,
www.library.oit.edu:2443/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=13086755&site=ehost-live.

Note: Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.*

Buchanan, Wyatt. "Bay Bridge May Carry Willie Brown's Name." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 13 June 2013, www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Bridge-may-carry-Willie-Brown-s-name-4599233.php

Note: For a newspaper article, the full publication date is given

Article from a Printed Periodical

Johnson, David V. "Let's Make Football a College Major." *Saturday Evening Post*, vol. 288, no. 6, pp. 12-14.

Ebook

Berndt, Katrin, et al, editors. *Heroism in the Harry Potter Series*. Taylor and Francis, 2011. *ProQuest Ebook Central*,
ebookcentral.proquest.com/www.library.oit.edu:2048/lib/oit/detail.action?docID=655457.

Print Books

Powell, Lawrence Clark. *California Classics: The Creative Literature of the Golden State*. W. Ritchie Press, 1971.

Note: For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations

Chase's Calendar of Events 2017: The Ultimate Go-To Guide for Special Days, Weeks and Months. Contemporary Books, 2017.

Note: If the author is not known, entry starts with the title

Legal Guide for Small Business: Everything a Small-Business Person Must Know. American Bar Association, 2000.

Note: When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization's name is now given only once, usually as the publisher. No author is stated

Paddison, Joshua. "Capturing California." *Taming the Elephant: Politics, Government and Law in Pioneer California*, edited by John F. Burns et al., U of California P, 2003, pp. 126-28.

Note: Chapter in an edited anthology: note abbreviations for "University" and "Press"

Peninou, Ernest P., et al. *History of the Sonoma Viticultural District: The Grape Growers, the Wine Makers, and the Vineyards*. Nomis Press, 1998.

Note: When a source has three or more authors, only the first one's name is normally given and is followed by et al.

Other Types of Sources

Film, Video and Television

Crash, directed by Paul Haggis, performance by Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Jennifer Esposito, Artisan Home Entertainment, 2004.

Bullock, Sandra, performer. *Crash*. Artisan Home Entertainment, 2004.

Note: If you focus on a particular contributor, put their name first

Show/TV Series

“The Last Vote.” *Bonanza*, directed by David Dortort, performance by Lorne Greene, Pernell Roberts, Dan Blocker, season 10, episode 6, 1968.

Interview

Jones, Thomas. Interview. By Christine Williams. 12 June 2017.

Note: The person being interviewed is considered an author

In-Text Citations

MLA style recommends using in-text (parenthetical) citations to refer readers to the Works Cited list. An in-text citation points to the source from the Works Cited list. The citation is usually placed inside parentheses immediately following the cited material and consists of author’s or editor’s last name and source page number. The page number is not needed if the citation refers to the source as a whole, e.g.: Internet source, book, article, motion picture, performance, or television program.

Examples

One author

MLA style recommends including author's last name followed by the page number

(Paddison 126)

Two authors

Include last names of both authors connected with "and", add the page number

(Wilke and Cole 11)

Three or more authors

Include the first author's last name, *et al.*, and the page number

(Peninou et al. 134)

No author

If there is no author, cite the work by its title. Use a shortened title if it is too long. Always begin with the word the title is alphabetized with. Italicize the title or put it in quotes according to how it appears in the Works Cited List.

(*Chase's Calendar* 118); ("Capturing California" 127)

No page number

(*Crash*)