

# A Brief Guide for Citing Sources in the MLA Style 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

August 2016

- Begin the works cited list, on a separate sheet following the text of your paper but continuing the same pagination.
- Double-space the entire list.
- Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name or, in the case of anonymous works, by title.
- New entries begin at the left-hand margin with subsequent lines for the same entry indented one-half inch.

This guide gives examples of the most commonly used citations. For further or more complete information, please consult the "MLA Handbook" at the library Reference Desk.

The MLA 8<sup>th</sup> ed. is much simplified, so the emphasis is on a few principles that can be applied to any source. The handbook is organized according to the process of documentation, rather than by the sources themselves. Once familiar with the method, you can use it to document any type of source.

Here is an overview of the process:

Start with the core elements. These are the general pieces of information that MLA suggests including in each Works Cited entry. In your citation, the elements should be listed in the following order, followed by the punctuation shown:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Earlier editions of the handbook included the place of publication, and more punctuation. In the current 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Place of publication is no longer required, and punctuation is simpler (just commas and periods separate the elements).

## **Books**

### **To cite books by one author**

Morrison, Jim. *The Lords and the New Creatures*. Touchstone, 1971.

*The basic work cited entry includes author, title, and publication information. Take this information from the title page of the book itself. Publication information no longer requires the city of publication unless the book is pre-1900. Publisher information is reduced to the minimum: Touchstone Press becomes Touchstone; University Press becomes UP.*

### **Books by two authors**

McCrum, Robert, and Robert MacNeil. *The Story of English*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Faber and Faber, 2002.

*The lead author's name alone is reversed for alphabetizing; the second authors' name reverts to the normal order. Authors are listed in the order they appear on the title page.*

### Three or more authors

Burdick, Anne, et al. *Hummingbirds in California*. Oxford UP, 2013.

*The lead/first author alone is identified by name followed by a comma, and et al ; an abbreviation for the Latin “et alia,” meaning “and others.”*

### Two or more books by the same author

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. Vintage, 1997.

- - -. *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*. Third Woman, 1987.

*Give the author’s name for the first publication only. For other works, type three hyphens in place of the name, followed by a period, and the title.*

### By a group or a corporate author (a Commission, committee, association)

*Official Olympic Souvenir Program: Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad*. Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, 1984.

*If the author and publisher are the same, skip the author and put the title first, then list the corporate author as the publisher.*

### Anonymous publication

*Camping on the Coast without a Permit*. Home Grown, 1972.

*For anonymous publications, begin your citation with the title and alphabetize the work in your bibliography by title.*

**Book with an author and editor, translator, or illustrator. If the editor, translator, or illustrator are important to the work they must be mentioned and their function is no longer abbreviated to ed./transl./illus., but fully written out.**

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. 1847, edited by David Daiches, Penguin, 1985.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by T.E. Lawrence, Oxford UP, 1972.

**Poem, short story, chapter, or other work in an anthology.** MLA 8<sup>th</sup> ed. introduces the concept of “containers” - a larger whole in which your source is located. Using the example of a short story in a collection of short stories – the collection is the “container” and the specific short story the source. This would also apply to, for instance, a song off an album. A container could be a book, journal, television series, website...

Johnston, Mary. “The Merrimac and the Monitor.” *Men at War*, edited by Ernest Hemingway, Crown, 1942, pp. 493-502.

*In addition to the basic book publication information, include the author and title of the work cited, the editor or translator of the collection, and the inclusive pages for the work.*

### Government publication

United States. Dept. of Labor. *Occupational Outlook Handbook: 2012-2013 Edition*, GPO, 2012.

*If the publication is anonymous, cite the responsible government agency. If the document has an author, the citation may begin with either the author’s name or the agency. If the publication is a Congressional document, include the number of the Congress and the session as well as the report number.*

### **Critical essay reprinted in a collection**

Stone, Laurie. "Personal Best: What's New in Towne." *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, edited by

Christopher Giroux, Vol. 87, Gale, 1995, pp. 366-369, Originally published in *Village Voice*

11 Mar. 1982, pp. 52-53.

*When a source was previously published in a form other than the one you consulted, add information about the original publication at the end.*

### **Reference Works**

#### **An anonymous article**

"Azimuthal Equidistant Projection." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. 2003.

*For standard reference works reappearing often in new editions, include only the edition and year of publication.*

#### **An article in a reference work, signed**

Honderich, Ted. "Determinism and Freedom." *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Donald M.

Borchert, Thomson Gale, 2006.

*For less familiar reference works, give publication information.*

### **Periodical Literature (Newspapers, Magazines, Scholarly Journals)**

#### **An article in a newspaper**

Newspapers citations must note the different pagination in a newspaper. If there is more than one edition available for that date (as in an early and late edition of a newspaper), identify the edition after the article title. Now, articles in periodical titles are now included, so New York Times will now be cited as The New York Times, or Journal of Marriage and the Family as The Journal of Marriage and the Family.

Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets County's Uninsured Patients." *The Washington Post*, 24 May

2015, p. B7.

Krugman, Andrew. "Fear of Eating." *The New York Times*, 21 May 2007, late ed., p. A1.

If the newspaper is a less well-known or local publication, include the city name in square brackets after the title of the newspaper. *The Daily Breeze* [Torrance].

#### **An article in a magazine**

List the article's author, put the title of the article in quotations marks, and italicize the periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Remember to abbreviate the month. The basic format is as follows:  
Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

*If an article continues on consecutive pages, show the range after the colon, e.g. 80-5. If a multi-page article is not printed on consecutive pages, include the first page and a plus sign, e.g.80+*

#### **An article in a scholarly journal**

A scholarly journal can be thought of as a container, as are collections of short stories or poems, a

television series, or even a website.

Author(s). "Title of article." *Title of journal*, volume, issue, year, pages.

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's *White Noise*." *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 3, 1994, pp. 127-53.

### **Documents from a Subscription Service/Database**

With databases, the concept of "containers" comes up again. You might have found the electronic version of a journal on JSTOR. It is important to cite all containers so that your readers can find the exact source that you used.

MLA 8<sup>th</sup> ed. is also introducing the use of the DOI – Digital Object Identifier (if available). Unlike a URL, the DOI is permanently attached to an electronic work and if provided should be used instead of the URL.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96, *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 27 May 2009.

### **Other Electronic Resources, including Databases**

Include a URL or web address to help readers locate your sources. MLA encourages citing containers such as Youtube, JSTOR, Spotify, or Netflix in order to easily access and verify sources. However, MLA only requires the www. address, so eliminate all https:// when citing URLs.

Many scholarly journal articles found in databases include a DOI (digital object identifier). If a DOI is available, cite the DOI number instead of the URL.

Online newspapers and magazines sometimes include a "permalink," which is a shortened, stable version of a URL. Look for a "share" or "cite this" button to see if a source includes a permalink, and use that instead of a URL.

If page numbers are not available, but paragraph numbers are provided, use par. or pars. to denote paragraph numbers. Use these in place of the p. or pp. abbreviation.

Use "Accessed" to denote which date you accessed the web page when available or if your instructor prefers this. It is not required to do so but especially encouraged when there is no copyright date listed on a website. Use format Accessed day month year, as in Accessed 24 July 2016.

### **Basic Style for Citations of Electronic Sources (Including Online Databases)**

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every Web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much of the following information as possible both for your citations and for your research notes:

- Author and/or editor names. (if available)
- Article name in quotation marks.
- Title of the website, project, or book in italics,
- Any version numbers available, including editions (ed.), revisions, posting dates, volumes (vol.), or issue numbers (no.),
- Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date,
- Take note of any page numbers (p. or pp.) or paragraph numbers (par. or pars.),
- URL (without the https:// as in www.ucla.edu) DOI or permalink.
- Date you accessed the material (Accessed 4 Nov. 2015).

Remember to cite containers after your regular citation. Examples of containers are collections of short stories or poems, a television series, or even a website. A container is anything that is a part of a larger body of works.

Use the following format:

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). 2<sup>nd</sup> container's title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Accessed (if applicable).

### **Citing an Entire Web Site**

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Accessed (if applicable).

*10 Facts on Obesity*. World Health Organization. 2014. [www.who.int/features/factfiles/obesity/en](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/obesity/en).

Accessed 23 August 2016.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003,

[www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/). Accessed 10 May 2006.

### **An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)**

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services as containers. Thus, provide the title of the database italicized before the DOI or URL. If a DOI is not provided, use the URL instead. Provide the date of access if you wish.

Alonso, Alvaro, and Julio A. Camargo. "Toxicity of Nitrite to Three Species of Freshwater Invertebrates."

*Environmental Toxicology*, vol. 21, no. 1, 3 Feb. 2006, pp. 90-94, *ScienceDirect*, doi:

10.1002/tox.20155.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50,

no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96, *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 27 May 2009.

### **A YouTube Video**

Video and audio sources use the same basic guidelines as print sources. Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers find the source you are citing. If the author's name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author's name before the title.

"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 Jun.

2016, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB1pjSEtELs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB1pjSEtELs).

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012,

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdz](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdz)

