

MLA Citation Guide – 8th edition

This is a basic guide to the MLA style of citation. For more in-depth information, please see:

- [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers \(8th Ed.\)](#) – Brescia General Collection PN147.M68 2009

THE CORE ELEMENTS

The eighth edition of MLA focuses on pieces of information which are common to most sources (core elements).

Determine which pieces of information are relevant for documenting your source, and fill in the template accordingly. Not all sources will use each core element. See pp. 50-53 for optional elements.

Things to note:

In this guide, the term ‘container’ refers to the larger whole that contains a source, and a source is what is being cited. For more

1	Author.	Wood, Peter.
2	Title of source.	“John Barleycorn: The Evolution of a Folk-Song Family.”
CONTAINER 1		
3	Title of container,	<i>Folk Music Journal,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	vol. 8, no. 4,
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	2004,
9	Location.	pp. 438-55.
CONTAINER 2		
3	Title of container,	<i>JSTOR,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	
9	Location.	www.jstor.org/stable/4522718.

information, see pp. 30-31.

Books		
	In-text citation	Works Cited
Single author	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(Harbord 127)	Harbord, Janet. <i>The Evolution of Film: Rethinking Film Studies</i> . Polity, 2007.
Two authors	(Author and Author Page #)	Author, First Name, and Second Author. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(Larsen and Zubernis 249)	Larsen, Katherine, and Lynn S. Zubernis. <i>Fangasm: Supernatural Fangirls</i> . U of Iowa P, 2013.
Three or more authors	(Author, et al. Page #)	Author, First Name, et al. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(Plag, et al. 109)	Plag, Ingo, et al. <i>Introduction to English Linguistics</i> . Mouton, 2007.
Editor in place of author	(Editor Page #)	Editor, First Name, editor. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(McRae 693)	McRae, Murdo William, editor. <i>The Literature of Science: Perspectives on Popular Science Writing</i> . U of Georgia P, 1993.
Author(s) and Editor(s)	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Edited by Editor, Publisher, Date.
	(Austen 94)	Austen, Jane. <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> . Edited by Claudia Johnson, Norton, 2001.
Organization as author	(Abbreviated title #)	<i>Title</i> . Organization, Date. Report title and report number.
	(Reading 3)	<i>Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America</i> . National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004. Research Division Report 46.
Group/corporation as author	Introduce group name in text and include (Page #) OR (Group Page #)	Group. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date. When the organization is also the publisher, begin with the title.
	According to the National Research Council... (378) OR (Natl. Research Council 378)	National Research Council. <i>Beyond Six Billion: Forecasting the World's Population</i> . Natl. Acad., 2000.
Chapter in a book	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , edited by First Editor and Second Editor, Publisher, Date, pp-pp.
	(Bordo 102)	Bordo, Susan. "The Moral Content of Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i> ." <i>Aesthetic Subjects</i> , edited by Pamela R. Matthews and David McWhirter, U of Minnesota P, 2003, pp. 125-52.

Electronic version of print book	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date. <i>Title of Container</i> , Location.
	(Copeland 101)	Copeland, Edward. <i>The Silver Fork Novel: Fashionable Fiction in the Age of Reform</i> . Cambridge UP, 2012. <i>Google Books</i> , books.google.ca/books?id=3T0xSDJv-1MC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false.
Multiple editions	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Version, Publisher, Date.
	(Baker 594)	Baker, Nancy L. <i>A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students: English and American Literature</i> . 6th ed., MLA, 2006.
Multiple volumes	(Author Volume #: Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Number, Publisher, Date.
	(Wellek 5: 987)	Wellek, René. <i>A History of Modern Criticism, 1750-1950</i> . Vol. 5, Yale UP, 1986.
Translation	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Translated by Translator, Publisher, Date.
	(Mankell 331)	Mankell, Henning. <i>Firewall</i> . Translated by Ebba Segerberg, Vintage-Random, 2003.
Dictionary	("Title", def. #)	"Title of source." <i>Title of Container</i> , Version, Date, Location.
	("Noon", def. 4b)	"Content." <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , 11th ed., Merriam-Webster, 2003, p. 269. Online: "Content." <i>Collegiate Dictionary</i> . Merriam-Webster, 2016, unabridged.merriam-webster.com/collegiate/content.
Encyclopedia	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , edited by Editor, Version, Number, Publisher, Date, Location.
	(Allen 247)	Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." <i>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</i> , edited by Stephen G. Post, 3rd ed., vol. 4, Macmillan-Thompson, 2004, p. 247. Online: use URL for Location element

Journal Articles and Other Periodicals

	In text citation	Works Cited
Single author	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , Number, Date, Location.
	(Takacs 18)	Takacs, Stacy. "Monsters, Monsters Everywhere: Spooky TV and the Politics of Fear in Post-9/11 America." <i>Science Fiction Studies</i> , vol. 36, no. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 1-20.

Three or more authors	(Author et al. Page #)	Author, First Name, et al. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , Number, Date, Location.
	(Chan et al. 68)	Chan, Evans, et al. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." <i>Postmodern Culture</i> , vol. 10, no. 3, 2000, pp. 56-72. Web.
Magazine or newspaper article - online version	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container (Magazine Title)</i> , Date, Location.
	(McEvoy 27)	McEvoy, Dermot. "Little Books, Big Success." <i>Publishers Weekly</i> , 27 Oct. 2006, www.publishersweekly.com/pw/print/20061030/9281-little-books-big-success.html
Review	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. Review of <i>Title of Original Work</i> , by Original Author. <i>Title of Container (Magazine/Journal)</i> , Date, Location.
	(Mendelsohn 44)	Mendelsohn, Daniel. Rev of <i>United 93</i> , by Paul Greengrass. <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 21 Sept. 2006, pp. 43-6.
Two authors	(Author and Author Page #)	Author, First Name, and Last Author. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , Number, Date, Location.
	(Shah and Ahmad 72)	Shah, Parilah Mohd, and Fauziah Ahmad. "A Comparative Account of the Bilingual Education Programs in Malaysia and the United States." <i>GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies</i> , vol. 7, no. 2, 2007, pp. 63-77.

Informally Published Material – Reports, Theses, etc.

	In text citation	Works Cited
Dissertation- from database	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Date. Granting Institution, PhD dissertation/thesis. <i>Title of Container</i> , Location.
	(Dunphy 83)	Dunphy, Heather Victoria. <i>Trust, Friendship and Hogwarts Houses: An Ethnography of Harry Potter Fans</i> . 2011. U of Calgary, thesis. <i>ProQuest</i> , search.proquest.com/docview/913006319?accountid=15115.
Course material (e.g. handouts)	(Author Page #)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." Institution, Physical location, Date. Digital format (PDF, JPED file, etc.).
		Dorschell, Mary Frances. "Candide." Brescia University College, London, Ontario, 2011. <i>Microsoft PowerPoint</i> slides.
Class lectures	(Speaker)	Speaker, First Name. "Title of Source (Lecture Topic)." Institution, Physical location, Date. Lecture.
	(Doelman)	Doelman, James. "Versification." Brescia University College, London, Ontario, 28 Oct. 2011. Lecture.
Personal interview	(Interviewee)	Interviewee, First Name. Type of interview. By Interviewer. Date.
	(Reed)	Reed, Ishmael. Personal interview. By Heather Cromby. 10 Dec. 2007.

Webpages and Websites		
	In text citation	Works Cited
Webpage/ Section of Website	(Author)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container (Site)</i> , Publisher, Date, Location.
	(Green)	Green, Joshua. "The Rove Presidency." <i>The Atlantic.com</i> , Atlantic Monthly Group, Sept. 2007, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/09/the-rove-presidency/6132.
Entire website	(Author)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date, Location.
	(Eaves)	Eaves, Morris. <i>The William Blake Archive</i> . Lib. of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007, www.blakearchive.org/blake.
Email *Note: title of email is the subject line	(Author)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source." Received by Recipient, Date.
	(Boyle)	Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997.
Blog post or comment	(Author)	Author, First Name. "Title of Source". <i>Title of Container (Blog Name)</i> , Date, Location.
	(Campbell)	Post: Foley, Jennifer. "Getting Relevant Results: Keywords." <i>Clever Researcher Blog</i> , 14 Sept. 2017, berylveylibrary.wordpress.com/2017/09/14/getting-relevant-results-keywords/ Comment: Comment on "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." <i>So Many Books</i> , 25 Apr. 2013, 10:30 p.m., somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/#comment-83030.
Social media (e.g. Twitter)	(Name or Username)	Author (Author Username). "Entire text of tweet." <i>Twitter</i> , Date, Time, URL.
	(Jessica Jones)	Jones, Jessica (persiankiwi). "We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now - #Iraelection." <i>Twitter</i> , 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.

Government Documents		
	In text citation	Works Cited
Government report – online version	(Country)	Country, Government Department(s). <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date. <i>Title of Container</i> , Location.
	(Canada)	Canada, Environment Canada, Transportation Division. <i>Fleet Average NOx Emission Performance of 2007 Model Year Light-Duty Vehicles, Light-Duty Trucks and Medium-Duty Passenger Vehicles</i> . Environment Canada, 2009. <i>Environment Canada</i> , www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=440ABCFF-1.

Media		
	In text citation	Works Cited
Motion picture or video	<i>Where options are given (i.e. choosing between composer, conductor or performer for sound recording), choose the most appropriate entry for your paper. See p. 37 for a list of other contributors whose roles you can highlight.</i>	
	(Short Title)	Title of Film. Contributors, Publisher, Date.
	(Wonderful Life)	<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> . Directed by Frank Capra, performances by James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell, RKO, 1946.
Sound recording – single track	(Composer/Conductor/Performer)	Author (Composer/Conductor/Performer), First Name. "Title of Source." <i>Title of Container (Album)</i> , Publisher, Date.
	(Beyoncé)	Beyoncé. "Pretty Hurts." <i>Beyoncé</i> , Parkwood Entertainment, 2013, www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media_view=songs .
Sound recording – entire album	(Composer/Conductor/Performer)	Author (Composer/Conductor/Performer), First Name. <i>Title of Source (Album)</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(Holiday)	Holiday, Billie. <i>The Essence of Billie Holiday</i> . Columbia, 1991.
Single episode from a television series	("Short Title")	"Title of Source." <i>Title of Container</i> , Contributor, Number, Publisher, Date.
	("Under the Gun")	"Under the Gun." <i>Pretty Little Liars</i> , created by Marlene King, season 6, episode 7, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. <i>Netflix</i> , www.netflix.com/watch/511318 .

Additional rules		
	In text citation	Works Cited
Secondary citations	<i>Use secondary citations as your last choice: it is preferable to find the original work. List the secondary source (where you actually read it) in the reference list. Name the original work in the text, and give a citation for the secondary source.</i>	
	Reference original work (qtd. in Author Page #).	Use citation format appropriate to work. Example below is a book.
	...was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 450)	Boswell, James. <i>The Life of Johnson</i> . Edited by George Birkbeck Hill and L. F. Powell, Clarendon, 1934-50.
Two or more works by the same author	Abbreviate the titles of each work and place them in the citation. (Author, <i>Abbreviated Title</i> Page #)	Author, First Name. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date. ---. <i>Title of Source</i> . Publisher, Date.
	(Frye, <i>Anatomy</i> 237) (Frye, <i>Double Vision</i> 85)	Frye, Northrop. <i>Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays</i> . Princeton UP, 1957.

		---. <i>The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion</i> . U of Toronto P, 1991.
No date	(Author Page #)	If the date of a work is unknown, insert “n.d.” in its place. Use citation format appropriate to work. Example below is of a book where the optional element of the city of publication has been added. This element is used for books published prior to 1900. (See p. 50-53 for more optional elements .)
	(Brome 41)	Brome, Richard. <i>The Dramatic Works of Richard Brome</i> . London, n.d.
No page	(Author, ch. or par.)	If there are no labelled page numbers, use explicit, fixed part numbering (e.g. “ch. 2”). Do not manually count unnumbered parts.
	(Rowling, ch. 2)	Rowling, J.K. <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i> . Kindle ed., Bloomsbury, 2007.
More than one work in a single in-text citation	Cite each work in one parenthetical reference and separate them by a semicolon.	Use citation format appropriate to work. Include separate reference list entries for each work. Examples below are of books.
	(Rowling 357; Gunelius 104)	Rowling, J.K. <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i> . Bloomsbury, 2007. Gunelius, Susan. <i>Harry Potter: The Story of a Global Business Phenomenon</i> . Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

How to format

- Begin your works cited list on a new page. Do not bold or underline title of “Works Cited.” Double space all entries; list alphabetically by first author’s surname. Indent the second line of each reference.
 - Tip: If Word is not indenting properly, try hitting enter followed by tab on the second line.
- A research paper does not need a title page. Instead, type your name, your instructor’s name, the course number, and date (e.g. 24 January 2019). This information should be aligned with the left margin.
- Number all pages of the paper in the upper right-hand corner aligned with the right margin, and type your last name before each page number.
- Except for page numbers, leave margins of one inch at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text.
- See sections 1.2 and 3.2 on how to cite the titles of works within your research paper.
- If a prose quotation is more than four lines within your research paper, begin the quotation on a new line that is indented half an inch from the left margin. Verse quotations of more than three lines follow this rule. Add the parenthetical citation after the closing period.
- For electronic sources, you can add the date of access as an optional element after the URL (“Accessed on”).

Even more rules

- When creating reference lists, abbreviated university press names are used in Works Cited. For example, “Oxford University Press” becomes “Oxford UP”, or “University of Minnesota Press” becomes “U of Minnesota P”.
- This worksheet does not contain every possible reference or citation example. If you cannot find the appropriate form of reference or citation for your source, please consult the MLA guide.

Example of Works Cited

Works Cited

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility*. Edited by Claudia Johnson, Norton, 2001.

Boyle, Anthony T. “Re: Utopia.” Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997.

Canada, Environment Canada, Transportation Division. Fleet Average NOx Emission Performance of

2007 Model Year Light-Duty Vehicles, Light-Duty Trucks and Medium-Duty Passenger

Vehicles. Environment Canada, 2009. Environment Canada,

www.ec.gc.ca/lcpecepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=440ABCFF-1.

Green, Joshua. “The Rove Presidency.” *The Atlantic.com*, Atlantic Monthly Group, Sept. 2007,

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/09/the-rove-presidency/ 6132.

Jones, Jessica (persiankiwi). “We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now –

#Iranelection.” *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m.,

twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.