MLA, 8TH EDITION: BRIEF CITATION GUIDE

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 illustrates MLA citations for commonly used information sources. For other examples, citation rules, or style questions refer to the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, available at the Library Information Desk.

CITATION ELEMENTS: The following are generally needed to create a citation for a source.

- **Author or Editor or Compiler** – List by last name, followed by first and middle names
  - Two authors authors/editors/compilers. – List first author by last name, first name; second author in normal form, i.e., first name, last name. Include the word “and” before the second author’s name.
  - Three authors/editors/compilers or more – List the first author followed by "et al." [Example: Papworth, Andrew, et al.]
- **Title of the work** – Capitalize all the main words.
  - Article title – Put the article title (e.g., an article from a periodical, chapter title of a book, an essay or other selection from an anthology, collection, or reference work) in “quotation marks.”
  - *Publication title* – Put publication title in *italics* (i.e., title of a book, magazine, journal, or video, etc.).
- **Publication information** – List publisher name; keep publishing information minimal. Examples: omit Inc., Books, etc.; replace the words University Press with UP, e.g., Stanford UP; if the University Press is separated by other words, e.g., University of Chicago Press, replace them with UP, e.g., U of Chicago P.
- **Publication date & time** – Format dates as: Day Month Year. The month should be abbreviated except for May, June, July. For sources with a specific time given, format as hour/minutes/ seconds , HH:MM:SS (EX: 09:45:21)
- **Page numbers** – List the page or range for multiple pages. [EXAMPLES: p. A1, pp. 132-51]
- **Online resources** – MLA requires that a location for an online source be provided; include one of the following items:
  - DOI (Digital Object Identifier) – DOI is a unique string of numbers and letters assigned to a journal article to make them easier to locate; it is the preferable location. If your article has a DOI, include it in your citation; EXAMPLE: doi: 10.230d7/775628. If there is no DOI, include the permalink URL.
  - URL – Include the permalink (generally applies to sources in online databases) or the Web address if there is no permalink URL; do not include the “http://” or “https://”
- **Date accessed** – Include the date of access for any online resource

IN-TEXT OR PARENTHETICAL CITATION:

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. Generally, this means that the author’s last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text after said quotation or paraphrased text. If the author’s name is included in the cited text, then only the page appears at the end. **EXAMPLES:** (Karhl and Roland-Holst 147), (Papworth et al. 420); EX. video clip: (“How to Feed” 00:03:40-55)

WORKS CITED LIST:

- Start a separate page at the end of your paper and title it **Works Cited** at the center of the page. If the list contains only one entry, make the heading **Work Cited**.
- List citations alphabetically by the first word of the citation (ignore any initial a, an, or the).
- Double space within and between each citation entry.
- Use a hanging indent, i.e., one half-inch from the left margin, if a citation has more than one line.
Citation Format for Books  [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

**Book with two authors (print book)**

**eBook from an online database with more than two authors, editors, or compilers and permalink URL**

**Chapter/selection from an anthology or reference eBook in an online database with editor, volume & permalink URL**

Citation Format for Articles  [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

**Magazine article (print source)**

**Journal article by three or more authors from an online database with DOI (online source)**

**Report in an online database with URL**

Citation Format for Web Sources  [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

**Webpage with no author**

**YouTube video clip from the Web with name of person/organization that posted or uploaded the video**

**Map or chart (born digital)**