MLA
8th Edition Formatting and Style Guide
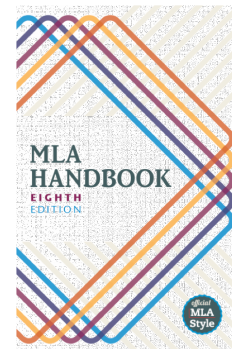
WHAT IS MLA?

MLA (Modern Language Association) Style formatting is often used in various humanities and arts disciplines.

In addition to the handbook, MLA also offers The **MLA Style Center**, a website that provides additional instruction and resources for writing and formatting academic papers. https://style.mla.org/

WHAT DOES MLA REGULATE?

MLA regulates :

– document format

– in-text citations

– works-cited list

MLA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MLA guidelines are now based on a set of principles that may be used to cite any type of source.

The three guiding principles:

– Cite simple traits shared by most works.
– Remember that there is more than one way to cite the same source.
– Make your documentation useful to readers

Format: General Guidelines for a Research paper written in MLA Style

An MLA Style paper should:
– Be typed on white 8.5" x 11" paper
– Double-space everything
– Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
– Leave only one space after punctuation
– Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
– Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
– Have a header with page numbers located in the upper right-hand corner
– Use italics for titles
– Place endnotes on a separate page before the list of works cited

In-Text Citations: the Basics

An **in-text citation** is a brief reference **in your text** that indicates the source you consulted.
– It should *direct readers* to the entry in your works-cited list for that source.
– It should be unobtrusive: *provide the citation information without interrupting* your own text.
– The in-text citation will be the author's last name (or abbreviated title) with a page number, enclosed in parentheses.

Author-Page Style

In-text Example:
Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263). Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263). Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Print Source with Author

For the following print source
Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*.
U of California P, 1966.

If the essay provides a signal word or phrase—usually the author's last name—the citation does not need to also include that information.

Examples:
Humans have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).
Humans have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

With Unknown Author

How to cite a work with no known author:
We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change…" ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

Corresponding Entry in the List of Works Cited:
"The Impact of Global Warming in North America." *Global Warming: Early Signs*. 1999. Accessed 23 Mar. 2009.

Works with Multiple Editions and Authors with same last name

Works with Multiple Editions
In-text example:
Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79; ch. 1).

Authors with Same Last Names
In-text example:
Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

Works by Multiple Authors

Work by Multiple Authors
In-text examples:
Smith et al. argues that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state: "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith et al. 76).

A 2016 study suggests that stricter gun control in the United States will significantly prevent accidental shootings (Strong and Ellis 23).

Multivolume works and holy books

Citing Multivolume Works
In-text example:
… as Quintilian wrote in *Institutio Oratoria* (1: 14-17).

Citing the Bible
In-text example:
Ezekiel saw "what seemed to be four living creatures," each with the faces of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1:5-10).

Indirect sources and Multiple Citations

Citing Indirect Sources
In-text example:
Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Multiple Citations
In-text example:
Romeo and Juliet presents an opposition between two worlds: "the world of the everyday… and the world of romance." Although the two lovers are part of the world of romance, their language of love nevertheless becomes "fully responsive to the tang of actuality" (Zender 138, 141).

Citing Media

Works in time-based media
In-text examples:
Buffy's promise that "there's not going to be any incidents like at my old school" is obviously not one on which she can follow through ("*Buffy*" 00:03:16-17).

Works-cited entry:
"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Sources without page numbers

Sources without page numbers
In-text examples:
Disability activism should work toward "creating a habitable space for all beings" (Garland-Thomson).

Corresponding works-cited entry:
Garland-Thomson, Rosemarie. "Habitable Worlds." Critical Disability Studies Symposium. Feb. 2016, Purdue University, Indiana. Address.

Formatting Short Quotations (in Prose)

Short prose quotations
In-text examples:
According to some, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).

Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

Formatting Long Quotations (in Prose)

Quoting more than four lines of prose
In-text examples:
Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:
They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

Adding/Omitting Words

In-text example for <u>Adding Words</u>:
Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states:
"some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

In-text example for <u>Omitting Words</u>:
In an essay on urban legens, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale... and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).

Works Cited: The Basics

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

Each entry in the list of works cited is made up of core elements given in a specific order.
The core elements should be listed in the order in which they appear here. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown here.

Works-cited List: Author

Author.
Begin the entry with the author's last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name, as presented in the work. End this element with a period.

Examples:
Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Works-cited List: Title of Source

Title of source.
Books and websites should be in italics:
Hollmichel, Stefanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com.
Linett, Maren Tova. *Modernism, Feminism, and Jewishness*. Cambridge UP, 2007.

Periodicals (journal, magazine, newspaper article), television episodes, and songs should be in quotation marks:
Beyoncé. "Pretty Hurts." Beyoncé, Parkwood Entertainment, 2013, www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media_view=songs.

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

Works-cited List: Title of Container

Title of container,
Examples:
Bazin, Patrick. "Toward Metareading." *The Future of the Book*, edited by Geoffrey Nunberg, U of California P, 1996, pp. 153-68.

Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/.

"Under the Gun." *Pretty Little Liar*s, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. Hulu, hulu.com/watch/511318.

Works-cited List: Other Contributors

Other contributors,
Examples:
Chartier, Roger. *The Order of Books: Readers, Authors, and Libraries in Europe between the Fourteenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. Translated by Lydia G. Cochrane, Stanford UP, 1994.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Woolf, Virginia. *Jacob's Room*. Annotated and with an introduction by Vara Neverow, Harcourt, Inc., 2008.

Works-cited List: Version

Version,
If a source is listed as an edition or version of a work, include it in your citation.

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

Newcomb, Horace, editor. *Television: The Critical View*. 7th ed., Oxford UP, 2007.

Scott, Ridley, director. *Blade Runner*. 1982. Performance by Harrison Ford, director's cut, Warner Bros., 1992.

Works-cited List: Number

Number,
If a source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a multi-volume book, or journal with both volume and issue numbers, those numbers must be listed in your citation.

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Wellek, René. *A History of Modern Criticism*, 1750-1950. Vol. 5, Yale UP, 1986.

Works-cited List: Publisher

Publisher,
The publisher produces or distributes the source to the public. If there is more than one publisher, and they are all are relevant to your research, list them in your citation, separated by a forward slash (/).

Examples:
Harris, Charles "Teenie." *Woman in a Paisley Shirt behind Counter in Record Store. Teenie Harris Archive*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, teenie.cmoa.org/interactive/index.html#date08.

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Kuzui, Fran Rubel, director. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1992.

Works-cited List: Publication Date

Publication date,
The same source may have been published on more than one date, such as an online version of an original source. When the source has more than one date, use the date that is most relevant to your use of it.

Belton, John. "Painting by the Numbers: The Digital Intermediate." *Film Quarterly*, vol. 61, no. 3, Spring 2008, pp. 58-65.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Works-cited List: Location

Location,
Be as specific as possible in identifying a work's location.

Examples:

Adiche, Chimamanda Ngozi. "On Monday of Last Week." *The Thing around Your Neck*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2009, pp. 74-94.

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, 28 Dec. 2014, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.

Bearden, Romare. The Train. 1975, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Works-cited List: Optional Elements

Optional Elements:
– Date of original publication:
Franklin, Benjamin. "Emigration to America." 1782. *The Faber Book of America*, edited by
Christopher Ricks and William L. Vance, Faber and Faber, 1992, pp. 24-26.

– City of publication:
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret*. Translated by
John Oxenford, new ed., London, 1875.

– URLs

– DOIs (digital object identifier)

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May
2000. *Project Muse*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

– Date of access
"Under the Gun." *Pretty Little Liars*, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. Hulu, www.
hulu.com/watch/511318. Accessed 23 July 2013.

Basic Style for Citation of Electronic Sources

Some common features you should try to find before citing electronic sources in MLA style.
Author and/or editor names (if available); last names first.
   – "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://) DOI or permalink.
   – Date you accessed the material (Date Accessed).
   – 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.

Citing an Entire Web Site
List your date of access and when using the URL, be sure to include the complete address for the
site except for the https://.

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.
english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003, www.cla.purdue.edu/
english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2006.

Citation of Electronic Resources: A page on a Website

A Page on a Web Site
   – List the author or alias if known, followed by an indication of the specific page or article
     being referenced.
   – Usually, the title of the page or article appears in a header at the top of the page.
   – Follow this with the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the
     same as the website name, only list it once.

Example
"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-
treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-
vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.

Citation of Electronic Resources: An Image

An Image (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)
   – Provide the artist's name, the work of art italicized, the date of creation, the institution and
     city where the work is housed.
   – Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, and the date of access.

Example
Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. *Museo Nacional del Prado*, Madrid. Museo
Nacional del Prado, www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/
f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74. Accessed 22 May 2006.

Klee, Paul. *Twittering Machine*. 1922. Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Artchive*,
www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering_machine.jpg.html. Accessed May 2006.

Citation of Electronic Resources: An Article in a Web Magazine

Provide the author name, article name in quotation marks, title of the web magazine in italics,
publisher name, publication date, URL, and the date of access.

Example
Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make
Websites*, 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2009.

Citation of Electronic Resources: An Article in an online Scholarly Journal

Article in an Online-only Scholarly Journal
If the journal you are citing appears exclusively in an online format indicate the URL or other location information.

Example
Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

Article in an Online Scholarly Journal That Also Appears in Print
Cite articles in online scholarly journals that also appear in print, including the page range of the article. Provide the URL and the date of access.

Example
Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2000, pp. 595-600, wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00-0607_article. Accessed 8 Feb. 2009.

– An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)
– Cite 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

Example
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. *Wiley Online Library*, 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.

Citation of Electronic resources: E-mail

E-mail (including E-mail Interviews)
– Give the author of the message, followed by the subject line in quotation marks. State to whom the message was sent with the phrase, "Received by" and the recipient's name.
– Include the date the message was sent.
– Use standard capitalization.

Example
Kunka, Andrew. "Re: Modernist Literature." Received by John Watts, 15 Nov. 2000.

Neyhart, David. "Re: Online Tutoring." Received by Joe Barbato, 1 Dec. 2016.

Citation of Electronic resources: A YouTube Video

– Video and audio sources need to be documented using the same basic guidelines for citing print sources in MLA style.
– Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers understand the type and nature of 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.

Example
"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBIpjSEtELs.

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

Citation of Electronic resources: An Interview

Personal Interviews
– Interviews that you conduct yourself.
– List the interview by the name of the interviewee.
– Include the descriptor Personal interview and the date of the interview.

Example :
Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

Published Interviews (Print or Broadcast)
– List the interview by the full name of the interviewee.
– If the name of the interview is part of a larger work like a book, a television program, or a film
  series, place the title of the interview in quotation marks.
– Place the title of the larger work in italics.
– If the interview appears as an independent title, italicize it.
– For books, include the author or editor name after the book title.
– If the interview from which you quote does not feature a title, add the descriptor, Interview
  by (unformatted) after the interviewee's name and before the interviewer's name.

Example
Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review,* vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-50.

Amis, Kingsley. "Mimic and Moralist." *Interviews with Britain's Angry Young Men*, By Dale
Salwak, Borgo P, 1984.

Citation of Media sources : An Speeches, Lecture or other Oral Presentations (Including Conference Presentation)

– Provide the speaker's name.
– Give the title of the speech (if any) in quotation marks.
– Follow with the title of the particular conference or meeting and then the name of the
  organization.
– Name the venue and its city (if the name of the city is not listed in the venue's name).
– Use the descriptor that appropriately expresses the type of presentation (e.g., Address, Lecture,
– Reading, Keynote Speech, Guest Lecture, Conference Presentation).

Example
Stein, Bob. "Reading and Writing in the Digital Era." Discovering Digital Dimensions, Computers
and Writing Conference, 23 May 2003, Union Club Hotel, West Lafayette, IN. Keynote Address.

Citation of Media sources : Films or Movies

– List films by their title.
– Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year.
– If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

Example :
Speed Racer. Directed by Lana Wachowski and Lilly Wachowski, performances by Emile Hirsch,
Nicholas Elia, Susan Sarandon, Ariel Winter, and John Goodman, Warner Brothers, 2008.

–To emphasize specific performers or directors, begin the citation with the name of the desired
  performer or director, followed by the appropriate title for that person.

Example :
Lucas, George, director. *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1977.

Citation of Media sources : Television Shows

Recorded Television Episodes
– Cite recorded television episodes like films (see above).
– Begin with the episode name in quotation marks.
– Follow with the series name in italics.
– If the title of the collection of recordings is different than the original series (e.g., the show
  Friends is in DVD release under the title Friends: The Complete Sixth Season),
– List the title that would help researchers to locate the recording.
– Give the distributor name followed by the date of distribution.

Example
"The One Where Chandler Can't Cry." *Friends: The Complete Sixth Season*, written by Andrew
Reich and Ted Cohen, directed by Kevin Bright, Warner Brothers, 2004.

Broadcast TV or Radio Program
– Begin with the title of the episode in quotation marks.
– Provide the name of the series or program in italics.
– Also include the network name, call letters of the station followed by the date of broadcast
  and city.

Example :
"The Blessing Way." *The X-Files*. Fox, WXIA, Atlanta, 19 Jul. 1998.

Netflix, Hulu, Google Play
Generally, when citing a specific episode, follow the format below.

Example
"94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation*, season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010. Netflix, www.
netflix.com/watch/70152031.

An Entire TV Series
When citing the entire series of a TV show, use the following format.

Daniels, Greg and Michael Schur, creators. *Parks and Recreation*. Deedle-Dee Productions and
Universal Media Studios, 2015.

Where to Go for More Help

Alba University Writing Center
Building C 8th Floor

Email: Alba-Writingcenter@alba.edu.lb

académie libanaise des beaux-arts
université de balamand