# MLA Reference Sheet (8th Edition)

## MLA Citation Style

MLA citation style is primarily used in the liberal arts and humanities fields. MLA style is used to reference and document sources to provide proper credit and attribution to original authors and their works. Academic work is seen as ownership, much like owning a car. If you were to borrow a car you would have to ask for permission or give credit to the car owner. Using MLA style allows you to offer credit, avoiding pitfalls such as plagiarism and academic dishonesty. This reference sheet will provide an overview of works cited and in-text or parenthetical citations. For more complete information, be sure to examine the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition.

## What Has Changed in the 8th Edition

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

Previously, MLA style was based on source type, such as academic journal article, book, or online source. In the 8th Edition, there is a focus on core elements that every citation shares. The reasoning behind the shift has to do with the introduction of new formats and mediums. As online platforms enter the scene, change, or become obsolete, citations would have to be created or modified. Instead of trying to create citations for each new source type, the editors of the handbook have decided on core elements called containers. The containers are listed to the left; note the punctuation after each container.

## Common Source Citations

Though current citations are not written by source type, past editions have organized citation examples in this manner. Therefore, we have compiled a list of the most common citations below.

## Books

**Book with One Author**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Neiwert, David A. *Of Orcas and Men: What Killers Whales Can Teach Us*. Overlook Press, 2015.

**Book with More than One Author**

Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Zawacki, Terry Myers, and Paul M. Rogers. *Writing across the Curriculum: A Critical Sourcebook*. Bedford, 2012.

When you have three or more authors, use the first-listed author's last name and first name followed by *et al.*, which means *and others*, to represent the other authors.

Miller-Cochran, Susan, et al. *An Insider's Guide to Academic Writing*. Bedford, 2016.

**Book with No Author**
Alphabetize in works cited by book title.

*Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

*New American Standard Bible*. Foundation, 1997.

**Anthology or Edited Collection**
If you have one editor, follow the last name and first name by "editor." If you have multiple editors, follow the listing of the authors by "editors." Remember, when you have three or more editors you will need to use *et al*. See "Book with More than One Author" for reference.

Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name, editors. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Fedukovich, Casie, et al., editors. *Intertexts: A Collection of Student Writing*. Fountainhead, 2014.

## Periodicals
A periodical is a work that is published at regular intervals, like a newspaper, magazine, or academic journal. Remember, when you have three or more authors you will need to use *et al*. See "Book with More than One Author" for reference.

**An Article in a Newspaper or Magazine**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year Published, pages [pp.].

Lang, Cady. "You Can Now Smell Like Fall with This Pumpkin Spice Latte Deodorant." *Time*, 30 Sept. 2016, pp. 7-14.

**An Article in a Scholarly Journal**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume [vol.], Issue [no.], Year, pages [pp.].

Turner, Deborah E., and James Woodburn. "Characterising the Clinical and Biomechanical Features of Severely Deformed Feet in Rheumatoid Arthritis." *Gait and Posture*, vol. 28, no. 4, 2008, pp. 574-80.

## Electronic Sources
Changes to electronic sources include the addition of URLs and DOIs. Placeholders for missing information, such as n.d. ("no date"), n.p. ("no page") are no longer used. Access dates are also no longer required. Common features to note might include some/all of the following:

- Author and/or editor names (if available)
- Article name (in quotation marks)
- Title of the website, project, or book (in italics)
- Any version/paragraph/page number (if available)
- Publisher name and/or date of publication
- URL (without https://), DOI, or permalink
- A grouping of multiple works under a single umbrella (e.g. a database or *Netflix*).

**An Article from a Scholarly Journal on the Web**

Barr, Justin, et al. "Vascular Surgery in World War II: The Shift to Repairing Arteries." *Annals of Surgery*, vol. 263, no. 3, March 2016, pp. 615-20. *Web of Science*, doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000001181.

**An Article from a Newspaper or Magazine from an Online Database**

Lyons, Irv. "Navajo Code Key to Winning World War II." *Syracuse New Times*, 6 Nov. 2013, p. 10. *EBSCO*, web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=c2e5bb9f-9257-48a0-86a0-345e524a6b80%40sessionmgr101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRl#AN=92735196&db=n5h

**A Website**

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, www.cdc.gov/.

**A Page from a Website**

Heissman, Kara. "How to Be Successful in Life: 13 Tips from the World's Most Successful People in Life." *Life Hack*, 25 Aug. 2013, www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/how-to-be-successful-in-life.html.

## Other Sources

**Published Interviews**

Begin your works cited entry by listing the name of the interviewee. If the interview has a title, place it in quotation marks. If the interview is published on a website, provide the website's name and place it in italics. If the interview is untitled, use the term "Interview" without quotation marks or italics.

Pearl, Nancy. "Interview: Nancy Pearl Recommends Some Children's Fantasy Books." *NPR*, 16 May 2005, morning edition.

Collins, Suzanne. Interview. *New York Times*, 10 Oct. 2015, late edition: C25.

**Personal Interviews**

If you conducted the interview, provide the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview (personal, telephone, email), and the date.

Smith, B.L. Personal Interview. 30 Aug. 2017.

## Works Cited Page

Things to remember to include:

- Begin your works cited page on a separate sheet of paper from the rest of your essay. The works cited page should also have a page number that is continuous in relation to the rest of the text. For example, if you had four pages of writing, the works cited page would begin on page 5.
- Have the term Works Cited centered in the middle of the page above the citations. Do not italicize, underline, or bold. If you only have one source say Work Cited.
- Double space all citations and do not put additional space between entries.
- All the sources should have *hanging indents* (see the above examples).
- All your sources should be listed in *alphabetical* order from A-Z using the first letter of the first word to determine order. If there is no author and you have to start with a title and the title starts with an article like "the," "a," and "an," skip to the next word. If you cite multiple works by the same author(s), cite the name in the first entry and begin any source after the first with three hyphens and a period (---.) If the source begins with a number use the first letter of that number when spelled out (ex: 5 = f, 10 = t), but don't change the numerical form.

## In-Text or Parenthetical Citations

The **basic format** for in-text citations is (*author's last name* and *page #*). No comma is necessary to separate these two piece of information. You will only need a space. Consider the following example:

> Research suggests that "communism is a red herring" (Jones 117).

If the **author's name is already included in the text**, only the page number is needed in the citation: (117).

> According to Jones, "communism is a red herring" (117).

Citations should appear at the conclusion of the sentence that contains the quote. The final quotation mark and the first parenthesis should have one space between them. The period should appear after the second parenthesis.

If you're **citing more than one source by the same author**, you will need to differentiate the in-text citations by including additional information, such as the title of the work, in the parenthetical.

> (Brusatte, "A Mesozoic Aviary" 791) and (Brusatte, "Evolution: When Dinosaurs" 1190).

Remember that if you have **more than three authors**, you will need to use *et al.* to indicate this to your reader.
> (Harris et al. 369) *or* Harris et al. strongly disagreed with the assertion cats make good pets (369).

Finally, you may run across material that is important to your essay but the source is already quoting material from another author. When you can, it's best to take material from the original source. If you are unable to access the original source, you can **cite the quotation as an indirect source**. You will use the phrase *qtd. in*, which stands for *quoted in*.

According to Glenn Lavine et al., "dog owners walked 18.9 minutes more per week than pet non-owners" (qtd. in Lawson 28).

> \* More questions about in-text citations, such as how to integrate your quote into a sentence or how to use attributive phrases? See our handout *Quotations and Using Credible Sources*.

## Paper Heading

The paper heading will be aligned *left* in the top left corner on the first page of the document. Using four lines you will list your name, instructor, the class and section number, and the date. These should all be double spaced. Beneath this information will be the title of your paper centered in the *middle* of the page. Do not underline, bold, or italicize your paper title. Also, do not add any additional space between (1) your heading and your title and (2) your title and the text of your essay. Just continue to double space.

In the header, your last name and the page number will be aligned *right*. In Microsoft Word you can insert a header by selecting "Insert" and find the tab labeled "Page Number." Select "Top of Page" and "Plain Number 3." Be sure to edit your page number headers to include your last name. Word will automatically generate your last name with the correct page number on every page. See the example below:

Smart 1

Susy Smart

Professor Edu Cator

English 101 (003)

24 April 2017

Education in English: How to be a Successful Student in College

## Missing Information

- **No author**: Skip this piece of information and proceed to the next container, such as the title of the work. Make sure the title of the work is in quotes. If you have a corporate author, use the name of the corporation.
  - Examples: ("How to Succeed in Life" 127) or (Rand Corp. 7)
- **No date/year**: Do not include information and move to the next container.
- **No page numbers**: When a source has no page numbers, no numbers should be included. You might consider using paragraphs for electronic sources (par. or pars.), time for video recordings (00:03:16-17), or act and scene for plays (Act I, Scene 5).

## A Final Note about MLA Style

While everything above is listed based on the guidelines of the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook*, should your instructor require a different format, be sure to follow the guidelines provided by your instructor.

Works Consulted:

*MLA Handbook* (8th Edition) Modern Language Association of America; Purdue University Online Writing Lab (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/); University of New Hampshire Connors Writing Center (http://www.unh.edu/writing/cwc)