



Conant Library Guide: Citing Sources Using MLA Style

About Citing Sources Using MLA Style

There are several important reasons to cite sources including 1) to attribute ideas and information from other sources; it is important to cite all quotes, paraphrases, figures, and summaries, and 2) to help the reader easily locate the original source of ideas and information.

In citing sources it is vital to include both a Works Cited list at the end of a paper and citations within the text of the paper (i.e. in-text citations). All items in the Works Cited list must be cited within the paper and all items cited in the text must be in the Works Cited list.

MLA citation style is based on *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th edition, 2016. For additional information please refer to this publication. A copy is on reserve at the main desk in Conant Library and in the Reference stack on the Main Floor [Call #: REF LB 2369 .G53 2016]

Due to the various ways that information is now received, in books, websites, lectures, tweets, Facebook posts, etc, it has become unrealistic for MLA to create citation formats for every source type. Now, there is one standard, universal format that researchers can use to create their citations.

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- [Website](#)
- [Journal Articles](#) (from Library databases and print)
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Works Cited Page

The Works Cited page is the last page of your document and includes only those sources that are cited in your text. Entries should be arranged alphabetically by the first word of the entry. If there is no author, use the first word of the title.

The Works Cited page should be double spaced with no extra space between entries.

The first line of each citation is flush left, with subsequent lines indented.

Core Elements

The "Core Elements" of an MLA 8 citation, along with their corresponding punctuation marks, include the following (in this order):

Authors.

Title of the source.

Title of "container", [Note: Containers are the elements that "hold" the source. For example, if a television episode is watched on Netflix, Netflix is the container. Both the title of the source and its container are included in a citation.]

Version, [such as edition of a book]

Numbers,

Publisher, [Note: It is not necessary to include the publisher for periodicals or for a web site when the name of the site matches the name of the publisher. For periodicals, the name of the publisher is generally insignificant and can be omitted.]

Publication date,

Location.

Examples from a Works Cited Page

Website:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of the Article or Individual Page." *Title of the website*, Name of the publisher, Date of publication, URL. [Optional: Date accessed.]

Note: Sometimes, websites do not clearly state who wrote the information on the page. When no author is listed, omit the author information from the citation. Start the citation with the title.

Examples:

White, Lori. "The Newest Fad in People Helping People: Little Free Pantries." *Upworthy*, Cloud Tiger Media, 3 Aug. 2016, www.upworthy.com/the-newest-fad-in-people-helping-people-little-free-pantries?g=2&c=hpstream. Accessed 20 May 2017.

Journal Article from an Online Full-text Library Database, such as Academic Search Premier, Business Source Elite, Issues & Controversies, LexisNexis, etc.)

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of the article." *Title of the journal* (in italics), Numbers (such as a volume and issue number), Publication date, Page numbers. Name of the database, URL or DOI (digital object identifier).

Examples:

Neuhaus, Jessamyn. "Marge Simpson, Blue-Haired Housewife: Defining Domesticity in *The Simpsons*." *Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 43, no. 4, Aug. 2010, pp. 761-81. *SPORT Discus with Full Text*, ezproxy.nichols.edu:2048/login?url=search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=523009448&site=ehost-live. Accessed 24 Mar. 2016.

Brian, Real, et al. "Rural Public Libraries and Digital Inclusion: Issues and Challenges." *Information and Technology Libraries*, vol. 33, no. 1, Mar. 2014, pp. 6-24. *Academic Search Premier*, <http://ezproxy.nichols.edu:2048/login?url=search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=1147984&site=ehost-live>. Accessed 2 Dec. 2016.

Journal Article from a Print Source

Author Last, First. "Title." *Journal Name* (in italics) , Volume (Vol.) Number, Issue (No.) Number, Date of Pub, Page numbers.

Example:

Haraway, Donna J. "A Game of Cat's Cradle: Science Studies, Feminist Theory, Cultural Studies." *Configurations*, vol. 2, no. 1, Winter 1994, pp. 59-71.

Note: If a source has three or more authors, only the first author should be listed, followed by the Latin phrase "et al."

Book

Example:

Olsen, Gregg, and Rebecca Morris. *If I Can't Have You: Susan Powell, Her Mysterious Disappearance, and the Murder of Her Children*. St. Martin's True Crime, 2015, pp. 18-22.

Three or more authors? Include the author that is listed first on the source. Omit the other authors' names and include the term et al. (which translates to "and others" in Latin).

Gray, Joseph R., et al. *How Brown Johnson and Kirk Got It Wrong*. Ellsworth, 2005.

Book Chapter

Example:

Montrose, Louis. "Elizabeth Through the Looking Glass: Picturing the Queen's Two Bodies." *The Body of the Queen: Gender and Rule in the Courtly World, 1500-2000*, edited by Regina Schulte, Berghahn, 2006, pp. 61-87.

E-Book

Austen, Jane, and Seth Grahame-Smith. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Quirk, 2015. Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=x5xPaPeZzmUC&lpg=PP1&dq=zombies&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=zombies&f=false.

Example of a Works Cited Page

Works Cited

Churchill, W. "Crimes Against Humanity." *Our Times: Readings from Recent Periodicals*. Ed. Robert Atwan. Houghton, 1995. pp. 83-88. **Work from an Anthology**

Cullinan, Mary. *Business Communication: Principles and Processes*. 2nd ed. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1993. **Book**

Harris, Wendell V. "Reflections on the Peculiar Status of the Personal Essay." *College English*, vol. 58, no. 8, 1 Mar. 1990, pp. 1-9. *Expanded Academic ASAP*, doi:10.2307/2702718. **Article from Online Library Database**

Toth, Elizabeth L. and Nick Trujillo. "Reinventing Corporate Communications." *Public Relations Review*, vol. 13, no. 4, 1987, pp. 42-56. **Article from Scholarly Journal**

"Toyota." *Hoover's.com*. Hoover's Inc., 2009. http://www.hoovers.com/company-information/cs/company-profile.toyota_motor_corporation.a12418ae0c087cb3.html. Accessed 5 Sept. 2017. **Web Site**

Citing Sources In the Text of Your Paper

Use citations within the text to differentiate your own ideas from those of your sources. MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. 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, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

OR

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

OR

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

A direct quote with 40 words or more:

Omit quotation marks, start quotation on new line and indent 1 inch from the left-side margin. Indent beginning of paragraph ¼ inch only if quote contains multiple paragraphs. After the final punctuation mark, give the citation in parenthesis. Double space entire quote.

Example:

Jones's study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using MLA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (199)

Omitting words from a direct quote:

Use 3 ellipsis points (...) within a sentence. Use 4 points, one to indicate end of sentence and then three more, to indicate any omission between two sentences.

Adding emphasis to a word or words in a quotation:

Italicize the words or phrases and immediately after add the phrase in brackets [*italics added*].

No author:

Use a shortened version of the title of the source and put double quotation marks before and after. Example: A similar study was done of students learning to format research papers ("Using MLA," 2001).

Paraphrasing or referring to an idea from another work but NOT directly quoting

Give author's last name. Examples:

Jones compared student performance...

In a recent study of student performance (Jones)...

Citing non-print or sources from the Internet

When creating in-text citations for electronic, film, or Internet sources, remember that your citation must reference the course in your Works Cited.

Sometimes writers are confused with how to craft parenthetical citations for electronic sources because of the absence of page numbers, but often, these sorts of entries do not require any sort of parenthetical citation at all. For electronic and Internet sources, follow the following guidelines:

- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).
- You do not need to give paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser's print preview function.
- Unless you must list the Web site name in the signal phrase in order to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com* as opposed to writing out <http://www.cnn.com> or <http://www.forbes.com>.

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**Please direct any comments, questions, or corrections to
Conant Library Reference Department:
STARdesk@nichols.edu
508.213.2222 (on campus dial x2222)**

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