



Citing Information in the MLA Style, 8th Edition

Academic disciplines employ different ways of citing sources used in scholarly research. One of the most widely used style manuals in higher education is from the Modern Language Association (MLA). It is used in the literary, humanities and arts fields. The citation page is most often entitled **Works Cited** and entries must be alphabetized.

For many years, MLA's approach to documentation has been based on identifying the source type first and then applying a specific citation format to that type of source. However, given the current state of communication in which new types of texts are created daily in an expanding range of formats, MLA has chosen to approach documentation from a new perspective.

Instead of providing a specific format for a specific source type, the *MLA Handbook Eighth Edition* provides a template of Core Elements organized in "containers" (see image below from p. 20). The intention is for writers to identify the Core Elements for each work and to assemble the citation format based on the order below and using common practices for punctuation. Any Core Element not relevant to the work should be omitted from the citation. Notice the punctuation related to each element is indicated in the template next to the item. The final item should always end with a period.

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

The chart provides a brief look at the guidelines for creating citations, followed by examples below.

Author.	<p>Last name, First name.</p> <p>Ex. Kaku, Michio.</p>
Title of source.	<p>Use <i>italics</i> if the source is self-contained and independent.</p> <p>Use “quotation marks” if the source is from a collection.</p> <p>Ex. Kaku, Michio. <i>Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey through Parallel Universes, Time Warps, and the Tenth Dimension.</i></p> <p>Ex. Haggerty, Maryann. “Business Ethics.” <i>CQ Researcher</i>,</p>
Title of container, (Depending on the source, elements 3-9 may be repeated to account for an additional container, such as a database).	<p>The title of the container is italicized. Types of containers include journals, magazines, newspapers, websites, encyclopedias, television series, and more.</p> <p>Ex. Landit, Patricia. “Global Economy and Immigration.” <i>Encyclopedia of Immigration</i>,</p>
Other contributors,	<p>Contributors are acknowledged when applicable by their role. Common roles include the following: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, translated by, etc.</p> <p>Ex. <i>National Treasure</i>. Directed by Jon Turteltaub, performance by Nicholas Cage, Diane Kruger, and Justin Bartha,</p>
Version,	<p>If the source identifies a version, include it in the citation.</p> <p>Ex. Shakespeare, William. <i>The Tragedy of Othello</i>. Edited by Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine, version 1.3.1,</p>
Number,	<p>If the source identifies a numbered sequence, include it in the citation. Long works may be divided into volumes, and many journal articles include volume and issue numbers.</p> <p>Ex. Flook, Lisa. “Classroom Social Experiences as Predictors of Academic Performance.” <i>Developmental Psychology</i>, vol. 41, no. 2,</p>
Publisher,	<p>If the source identifies a publisher, include it in the citation.</p> <p>Ex. Kaku, Michio. <i>Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey through Parallel Universes, Time Warps, and the Tenth Dimension</i>. Oxford UP,</p>
Publication date,	<p>Include the most meaningful and relevant date.</p> <p>Ex. Kaku, Michio. <i>Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey through Parallel Universes, Time Warps, and the Tenth Dimension</i>. Oxford UP, 2005.</p>
Location.	<p>What qualifies as a “location” can vary depending on the source, from page numbers to URLs to DOIs.</p> <p>Ex. Hollmichel, Stefanie. <i>So Many Books</i>. 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com.</p>

As in the past editions of MLA, entries need to be double-spaced and have a hanging indent.

Other examples may be found by consulting:

- **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers** LB 2369.G53 2016
- **Owl@Purdue Online Writing Lab** <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>
- **Modern Language Association** <http://www.mla.org/>

Book examples . . .

Print book:

Kaku, Michio. *Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey through Parallel Universes, Time Warps, and the Tenth Dimension*. Oxford UP, 2005.

Electronic book:

Streibel, Barbara J. *The Manager's Guide to Effective Meetings*. McGraw-Hill, 2003. *Ebsco eBooks Academic Collection*, web.a.ebscohost.com/libproxy.maricopa.edu/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook?sid=273d6a1e-070dd64bd50c%40sessionmgr4005&vid=0&hid=4114&format=EB.

Article examples . . .

Print article:

Flook, Lisa. "Classroom Social Experiences as Predictors of Academic Performance." *Developmental Psychology*, vol. 41, no. 2, 2005, pp. 319-327.

Database articles:

Jaacks, Lindsay M. "Obesity." *Worldmark Global Health and Medicine Issues*, edited by Brenda Wilmoth Lerner and K. Lee Lerner, vol. 2, Gale, 2016, pp. 463-471. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, ez1.maricopa.edu:2048/login?url=http://go.galegroup.com/ez1.maricopa.edu/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCX3628100068&v=2.1&u=mcc_chandler&it=r&p=GVRL&sw=w&asid=c7082f11ff6f5ce857b816e3f8d7e7ee.

Naomi, Schaefer R. "What's a College Education Really Worth? Not Enough." *The Washington Post*, 5 June 2011, p. B3. *ProQuest*, search.proquest.com/ez1.maricopa.edu/nationalnewscore/docview/870221979/DD1E57EA60894EC8PQ/1?accountid=3859.

Rolando, Antonio, et al. "The Impact of High-Altitude Ski-Runs on Alpine Grassland Bird Communities." *Journal of Applied Ecology*, vol. 44, no. 1, 2007, pp. 210-219. *Academic Search Premier*, DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2006.01253.x.

Movie examples. . .

If emphasizing the film itself:

National Treasure. Directed by Jon Turteltaub, performances by Nicholas Cage, Diane Kruger, and Justin Bartha, Walt Disney Home Video, 2004.

If emphasizing the director:

Turteltaub, Jon, director. *National Treasure*. Performances by Nicholas Cage, Diane Kruger, and Justin Bartha, Walt Disney Home Video, 2004.

If from a database, citing the entire film:

Fats: Friends or Foes? Films Media Group, 2002, *Films on Demand*, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=106409&xtid=49449.

If from a database, citing a segment of the film:

“Cholesterol.” *Fats: Friends or Foes?* Films Media Group, 2002, *Films on Demand*, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=106409&xtid=49449.

Web Site examples...

If citing the entire web site:

Hollmichel, Stephanie. *So Many Books*, 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com.

If citing a specific article from a web site:

Hollmichel, Stephanie. “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/.

Interview or email examples. . .

Boyle, Anthony P. “Re: Cancer Research.” Received by Susan Alvarez, 22 June 2016.

Mackin, Joseph. “School Lunches.” Interviewed by Lane Kim, 3 May 2016.

Parenthetical Documentation . . .

MLA in-text citation:

“Today’s Mafia has a changed ethnic composition, down 40% from 30 years ago” (Smith 136).