MLA Citation Format Simplified (2021/9th ed.)

MLA (2021/9th edition), recognizing the changing nature of sources, provides scholars with a template to apply to sources. The basic template of elements is provided in the first table. This handout applies the approach to a variety of sources you may encounter. If you encounter a source that is not listed, you can apply the same strategies to format your source, following the basic format as demonstrated in these examples. Periods are usually used in three or four places: after the author name, the title of source, and to note the end of the bibliographical entry or the end of the core elements, and then at the end of the bibliographical entry. You will use commas to separate the other elements. MLA (2021) recommends that with online sources, if the DOI (digital object identifiers) or other type of document identifier number is available, use that. For sources without a DOI, provide the stable URL if it is available, and if not, copy and paste the URL from the browser window. Note: For purposes of this handout, the examples are single-spaced. MLA requires a **hanging indent** and **double-spacing** for its citations. Note that the template includes example for two containers, such as a journal article contained in an online database such as JSTOR. For more information and examples of Essays/Works Cited, see the following MLA Website: https://style.mla.org/

Basic Core Elements: (One Container)	Apply these core elements, in order noted, to your source: Remember, you can add Containers as needed. See template.
1. Author. (Period follows this element)	Last name, First name. If no author, the source may have an editor(s), which you would use in Author location, etc. It is possible that the author is an organization. Example: King, Stephen.
2. Title of Source. (Period)	Use italics for a self-contained/independent source. Enclose title in quotation marks if the source is from a collection. Example of a novel: *IT.* Example of a short story in a collection: *"*The Bone Church." *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams,*
3. Title of Container, (Comma) Note: depending on source, repeat elements 3-9 to account for additional information, such as a database.	Italicize the title of container. The container is usually the source of publication, such as journals, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, websites, and more. Example: Brown, Paul. "New Architecture Today." *Art Digest,*
4. Other contributors, (Comma)	Sources may have other contributors, which you identify by role: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, translated by, etc. Example: Moser, Teri. "Barbara Kingsolver." *Popular Contemporary Authors*, edited by Michael D. Sharp,
5. Version, (Comma)	If there is more than one version and your source notes that information, include it in your citation. Example: Shakespeare, William, *The Tragedy of Othello,* edited by Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine, version 1.3.1,
6. Number, (Comma)	Some sources are part of a numbered sequence. If so, you should include it in your citation. Some sources may have both volumes and number. For instance, many journals include a volume and issue number. If so, you should include both, using the abbreviations: vol., no. Example: Brown, Paul. "New Architecture Today." *Art Digest,* vol. 25, no. 3,
7. Publisher, (Comma)	If your source lists a publisher, include it in your citation. Example: King, Stephen. *"*The Bone Church." *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams,* Scribner, 2015, pp. 155-62.
8. Publication date, (Comma)	Include publication date or most meaningful and relevant date as provided by the source. Example: Brown, Paul. "New Architecture Today." *Art Digest,* vol. 25, no. 3, 2002,
9. Location. (Period)	Ask yourself, where did I find this source? How can I find this source again? A location can vary, depending on the source you used. A location can be page numbers, URLs, or DOIs or another type of article location identifier. Example: Brown, Paul. "New Architecture Today." *Art Digest,* vol. 25, no. 3, 2002, pp. 303-13. Example: Kingsolver, Barbara. *Barbara Kingsolver: The Authorized Site.* 2012, www.kingsolver.com.

Examples of different types of sources that follow the template of course elements:

Book	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE
One Author	Author Last, First. *Title of Work.* Publisher, Date.	Smith, Kevin C. *Children's Literature of the Harlem Renaissance.* Indiana University Press, 2004.
Two Authors	Author Last, First, & First Last. *Title of Work*. Publisher, Date.	Branson, Joseph J., and Bill Larson. *Educating Rita*. Norton, 2003.
More than Two Authors	Author Last, First, et al. *Title of Work*. Publisher, Date.	McMillian, Stephan D., et al. *Environmental Sciences*. Pearson & Longman, 2002.
Editor(s)	Editor Last, First, editor. *Title of Work.* Publisher, Date. Author. *Title of Work*. Editor(s), Publication, Date.	Arthur, Kingsley, editor. *Dismal State of American Education.* Knopf, 2004. Milton, John. *The Riverside Milton*. Edited by Roy Flannagan, Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
E-book	Author Last, First. *Title of Work*. Publisher, Date, *Electronic Container*, location.	Streibel, Barbara J. *The Manager's Guide to Effective Meetings*. McGraw-Hill, 2003. *Ebsco eBooks Academic Collection,* web.a.ebscohostcom.libproxy.maricopa.edu/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook?sid=273d6ae-070dd64bd50c%40session mgr4005%vid=0&hid=411&format=EB.
Article in an Anthology	Author Last, First. "Work Title." *Container*, Volume number, edited by Editor First Last, Publisher, Date, location.	Shinn, Merideth, and Bradley Cooper Weitzman. "Homeless Families are Different." *Homeless in America*, edited by Jerald Baumohl, Oryx Press, 1996, pp. 118-20.

Newspaper	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE
With Author	Author Last, First. "Title of Article." *Container,* Date, location.	Brown, Sue. "A New Art." *Washington Post,* 25 Jan. 1998, p. A4.
Letter to the Editor	Author Last, First. Letter. *Container,* Date, location.	Ozick, Kathy. Letter. *Arizona Republic*, 31 Oct. 2000, p. A8.
Article from a database	Same as print, but include additional container information, such as database title, and location information: *Database*, DOI or url	Herdia, Christopher. "Cities Drawing Line on Sprawl." *Los Angeles Times,* 14 Dec. 2004, p. A3. *National Newspapers*, ez1.maricopa.edu:2048/login?url=http//go.nationalnewspaper.com.ez1.maricopa.edu/ps/i.d0?=3459633&sw=w&asid=c45754f11ff666ce876b666.
Article from an online publication (NOT a subscription service):	Same as print but pages (location) may be missing, but url is used as location: Author. "Article Title." *Online Publication Title,* Date, url.	Dylan, Bill. "I Need Help." *New York Times,* 16 May 2002, www.newyorktimes.0125.com.

Periodical Article	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE

Magazine Article	Author Last, First. "Title of Article." *Container,* Date, Location.	Garcia, Juan. "Who's Reading Your Email?" *Fortune,* 3 Feb. 1994, pp. 57-59. Chou, Elaine Hsieh. "Carrot Legs." *Guernica*, 12 Sept. 2019, www.guernicamag.com/carrot-legs/.
Journal Article (print)	Author Last, First. "Title of Article." *Container,* Volume #, Issue #, Date, Location.	Bellon-Hare, Lawence Mike, et al. "Open Hands, Open Hearts: Working with Native Youth in the Schools." *Intervention in School and Clinic*, vol. 38, no. 4, Mar. 2003, pp. 225-35. Brown, Paul. "New Architecture Today." *Art Digest,* vol. 25, no. 3, 2002, pp. 303-13.
Magazine or Journal Article in an online database	Same as print format as in the examples, but include additional container and location information at end of entry. If a DOI # or other type of article identifier is available, use that rather than the url for the location.	Groot, Kormelink, Tim and Irene Costera Meijer. "Material and Sensory Dimensions of Every day News Use." *Media, Culture, and Society,* 5 Feb. 2019. *Sage Journals,* https://doi.org/10.1177/0163443718810910.
Subscription database (such as CQ Researcher)	Author Last, First. "Article Title." *Container*, Date, location. Remember if a DOI # or other permanent identifier is available, use that rather then the ulr for the location.	Vissing, Yvonne. "The Yellow School Bus Project: Helping Homeless Students Get Ready for School." *Phi Delta Kappan*, vol. 85, no. 4, Dec. 2003, pp. 321-23. *Academic Search Premier,* www.search. ebscohost.comez1.maricopa.edu /login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=11595378&site=ehost-live& scope=site. Weeks, Jennifer. "U.S. Oil Dependence." *CQ Researcher,* 22 June 2012, library. cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2012062200.

Encyclopedia	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE
General Encyclopedia Note: In most cases, your instructors will NOT allow you to use a general encyclopedia as a source for an academic essay. Full publication information is required.	Author Last, First. "Work Title." *Container,* volume number, edited by Editor First Last, Publisher, Date, location.	"Houseplant." *The Concise Britannica Encyclopedia,* vol. 5, Encyclopedia Britannica, 2016, p.365. Note: (Some info may not be provided, depending on the encyclopedia article/type of publication)
Specialized Encyclopedia Full publication information is required for BOTH general and specialized encyclopedias in MLA 2021 (9th ed.)	Author Last, First. "Article Title." *Container,* edited by Editor First Last. # of Edition. Volume #, Publisher, Date, Location.	Moser, Teri. "Barbara Kingsolver." *Popular Contemporary Authors*, edited by Michael D. Sharp, vol. 7, Marshal Cavendish, 2006, pp. 869-86. Warren, Karen J. "Ecological Feminism." *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy,* edited by J. Baird Callicott and Robert Frodeman, vol. 1, Macmillan Reference USA, 2009, pp.228-36. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, //ez1.maricopa.edu:2048/login?url=http:// go.galegroup. com.ez1.maricopa.edu/ps/ i.do?id=GALE%7CCX3234100091& =2.1&u=mcchandler&I t=r&p =GVRL&sw=w&asid=a1f0e1d6a9e74f761c230c561bc82a03.

Website Article	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE
With Author & Publisher	Author Last, First. "Title of Section." *Title of the Website*. Sponsoring organization or publisher (unless same as website), Publication Date or last revision, location.	Jameson, Eliot. "NCH FACT Sheets on Homelessness." *National Coalition for the Homeless*, 8 Jan. 2001, national homeless.org/about-homelessness/. Bauch, Nicholas. *Enchanting the Desert: A Pattern of Language for the Production of Space.* Standford UP, 2016, www.enchantingthedesert.com/home/.
Website by an Organization/Group	*Name of Page*. Publisher/Organization, date, location.	*Language & Humanities*. Chandler-Gilbert Community College, 8 August /Group2014, www.cgc.maricopa.edu/Academics/english/Pages/Home.aspx *The Official Website of Mark Twain*. Estate of Mark Twain, 17 May 2000, cmgww.com/historic/twain/.
Online Article in a Website	Author Last, First. "Article Title." Container--*Title of the Website*, Sponsoring organization or publisher unless same as website), Publication Date or last revision, location.	Pantoja, Veronica. "Leaving Arizona." *College News Digital Magazine,* July 2009, www.collegenews.leavingaz/354269.edu.

Other Source Types	MLA CORE ELEMENTS	EXAMPLE
Presentation (Lecture /Address/Conference Presentation/ Keynote Speech/Reading, etc.)	Speaker Last Name, First. "Presentation Title" Or type of presentation. Title of conference or meeting and name of organization, Series if relevant or sponsoring organization, Date, Location. If a video recording of a live presentation, add url to end.	Goddard, Terry. Lecture. Honors Forum Lecture Series, 17 Oct. 2001, Phoenix College. Atwood, Margaret, "Silencing the Scream." Boundaries of the Imagination Forum. MLA Annual Convention, 29 Dec. 1993, Royal York Hotel, Toronto.
Film (Movie) or Video (Order of elements depends on what you are emphasizing in your essay. For instance, if the focus is the film, then the title of film goes first. If the focus of your paper is on the director, his or her name may be used as the first element)	*Title of Film*. Director, Performers, Distributor, Date. [*NOTE that if the performers are not part of essay focus, or important in identifying the version of the film, you do not have to include them in your entry*.] Last name, First name, director. *Title of Film*. Performers, Distributor, Date.	*Cutthroat Island*. Directed by Renny Harlin, performance by Genna Davis, and Matthew Modine, Lionsgate, 2009. Capra, Frank, director. *It's a Wonderful Life*. Performance by James Steward and Donna Reed. RKO, 1946.
Database, entire film **Database, segment of a film.** **Viewed through an App**	Same as above, but add the additional container and location. Same as above, but add segment to beginning of the entry as well. Add the App information.	*Fats: Friends or Foes?* Film Media Group, 2002, *Films on Demand,* fodinfobase.com/ PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID+106409&xtud=49449. "Cholesterol*." Fats: Friends or Foes?* Film Media Group, 2002, *Films on Demand,* fodinfobase.com/PortalPlaylists .aspx?wID+106409&xtud=49449. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial.* Universal Studios, 1982. *Netflix* app.
Interviews (not published) **Personal Communication**	Last Name of Interviewee, First. Type of Interview. Interviewer. Date. [For the email, note the title references the title of the email, but is not required with an email interview] Last Name, First, Type of Communication. Date.	Hogan, Linda. Interview. Conducted by Teri Moser, 18 Aug. 1999. Cooper, John. "Re: Geological Changes in Yellowstone." Email to the author. 3 May 2020. Tapahonso, Luci. Personal communication with author. 20 October 2019.

Published Interviews	Last Name of interviewee, First. "Title of Interview." Conducted by First Name Last Name, *Container*, vol. #, no. #, Date, Location. If no interviewer name given, use second example and note that it is an interview.	Kingsolver, Barbara. "The Moral Universe: On Writing, Politics, And Human Nature." Conducted by Jeanne Supine, *The Sun*, no. 459, Mar. 2014, www.the sunmagazine.org /issues/459/the_moral_universe. Nguyen, Vie Thanh. "Viet Thanh Nguyen: By the Book." *The New York Times,* 30 Jan. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/books/review/viet-thanh-nguen-by-the=book.html. Interview.
A Review	Review Author Last Name, First. "Title of Review (if there is one)." Review of Performance Title, by Author/Director/ Artist. *Container,* Date of publication, location.	Kauffman, Rachel. "A New Look." Review of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *New Books Reviews*, 6 Mar. 2001, pp. 239-40.
Online Posting/Twitter	Author Last, First. Post type [if applicable] "Title of Posting." *Container*, Date of Posting, time of posting if relevant, url. Twitter is formatted similarly. Example starts with the Account name and follows with the online handle in brackets.	Ziegler, Jason. Comment on "Arizona Homeless Information Source." *Community Activism Forum*, 23 Oct. 2010, 10:30 p.m., forums.homessness /arizona/phoenix/issues/ msg1123494085458903.html?15. Maynard, Fred [@desertheat]. "We have a report of dust storm slamming the East Valley now - #monsoon2016." *Twitter*, 31 July 2016, 4:00 p.m., twitter.com/desertheat /status/234568958.
Online Poem (Available in Print)	Author Last, First. "Poem Title." *Publication*, Publisher, Date, *Container,* location.	Dickinson, Emily. "I'm Nobody. Who are you?" *The Complete Poems*, Little, Brown, 1924, *www.bartleby.com/dickinson /emily/345906/imnobodywhoareyou.*
A Work of Visual Art	Artist Last, First. *Title*. Date of composition, Location, City. (Viewed firsthand) Add other information as needed (for instance for art viewed online or in a published book as seen in examples).	Harmensz Van Rijn, Rembrandt. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*. 1653, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Rousseau, Henri. *The Cliff*. 1895, Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, *Henri Rousseau: Jungles in Paris*, edited by Claire Fresches, et al. National Gallery of Art, 2006, p. 255. Bearden, Romare. *The Train*. 1975, *MOMA*, www.moma.org/collection/works/65232? locale=en.
A Performance	List info similar to a film entry: Title, Contributors, Theater, City. Date of performance. As with film, the entry can start with the playwright, etc. if focus is on a specific person	Shanley, John Patrick. *Doubt*. Directed by Matthew Weiner, performances by Angelica Howland, Lillie Richardson, Sam Ferracane, and Phoenix Theater Company, 12 September 2008, Herberger Theater, Phoenix. Brown, Trisha. *Foray Forêt*. Performance by Trisha Brown Dance Company, 28 Sept. 2019, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.
Television Program or Radio Program	"Episode Title." *Name of Program,* contributors, season #, episode #, Network (if listed), Call letters & city of local station (if listed), Broadcast date. If viewed on a website, add website name and url	"Barbara Kingsolver." *Arizona Show*, narrated by Alice Cooper, directed by Craig Haffner, PBS, KAET, 6 Apr. 1993. "Death and Love." *Weekend Edition Saturday*, narrated by Joseph Sojourner, Natl. Public Radio, KJZZ, Phoenix, 25 Jan. 2002.

*Notes: While MLA recommends you use the doi or other document identifier # for online sources, such as the url, it also notes that if your instructor prefers that you not include them in your bibliographical entry or prefers you do, you should follow your instructor's instructions. Your instructor may also require that you include optional elements, such as date of access, for your online sources. Other optional elements include cities of publication, dates of original or prior publications, series name and the number of the book in the series, total numbers of volumes, types of works, such as unusual sources like transcripts or lectures or other addresses. Your instructor may require you to include these. Location of these elements in the entry depend on the element. Some may be placed at end of event (such as date of access: Accessed 05 Aug. 2021), or some may immediately follow the related core element (such as city of publication, if publisher has more than one location and it is necessary to identify the specific location: London: Bloomsbury,). Another example involves an unexpected work, such as a transcript: you could place the word Transcript at the end of the entry (such as an entry of a conference presentation, if you are accessing the transcript of a live presentation). For more information and examples, see the MLA handbook, 9th edition or https://style.mla.org/.

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