MLA Style: 8th Edition

This handout highlights many of the changes to MLA style arriving with the release of its 8th edition. It supplements, rather than replaces, the MLA Handbook.

FORMAT

THROUGHOUT the PAPER

• **Margins:** One inch
• **Spacing:** Double-spaced
• **Font:** 12-pt. Times New Roman
• **Running header:** Last name and page number on right.
• **Indention:** Indent each new paragraph 1/2 inch, 5 spaces, or one tab.

FIRST PAGE

• **Heading:** In the upper-left corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor’s name, class, and date.
• **Title:** Center your paper’s title at the top of the first page immediately after the heading. Do not italicize, underline, or bold your paper’s title. Do not put your title in quotation marks.

WORKS-CITED SECTION

*All entries in your works-cited page should correspond to a citation within the body of your paper, and all citations within the body of your paper should correspond to an entry in your works-cited page.*

• **Location:** The works-cited section begins on a separate page at the end of your paper.
• **Header:** The header (with name and page numbers) continues from the rest of your paper.
• **Section Title:** Center the phrase “Works Cited” at the top of the first page of this section. Do not italicize, underline, or bold this phrase.
• **Indentation:** Use hanging indentation on the works-cited page to expedite finding sources within the list. This means that the first line of each entry is not indented, but begins at the left margin. Each subsequent line in the entry is indented 1/2 inch, 5 spaces, or 1 tab.
• **Alphabetize by author:** In cases where no author is listed, alphabetize by the first word in the source’s title.
CITING within the BODY of a PAPER (In-Text Citations)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Every source** that you quote, summarize, or paraphrase must be cited.
- **In-text citations** include the first element of their works-cited entry (usually the author of the source cited) and the page number where the information may be found.
- **Short quotations** (less than 4 lines of prose, less than 3 lines of poetry) should be quoted within the normal paragraph format of your paper.
- **Longer quotes** begin on a new line and are entirely indented an additional 1/2 inch (5 spaces, 1tab).

CITATION EXAMPLES

In the body of your paper, you must include the source author’s name - either in the body of the sentence or parenthetically - and the page number (if there is one) where the information may be found.

**Direct Quote (One author):**

**In Text:**

Almond describes Oprah Winfrey as a “zillionaire narcissist” in 2007 (6).

“Literary prophet wasn’t seeming like such a dream job” (Almond 64).

**Works Cited**


**Direct Quote (One author, article):**

**In Text:**

In 2016, the article “Relocating to Transylvania” points out that Transylvania has a “vibrant musical scene” (McKissock 77).

“About 28.1% of the county’s population is 65 or older, according to the 2013 statistics” (McKissock 77).

McKissock’s article states that Transylvania “has historically been a retirement destination” (77).

**Works Cited**

Summary (Three or more authors):

In Text:

Siegel, Schmalleger, and Worrall suggest that knowing how the courts work is important to students because of the power of the courts in our society (xi).

This text examines moral implications of court rulings as well as legal implications (Siegel xi).

Work Cited


Long-quote prose example (more than 4 lines):

For example, if a professor has asked a student to produce a paper in MLA format, the student should read the section on writing in the reference.

The second major component of MLA documentation style is the insertion in your text of a brief reference that indicates the source you consulted. The in-text citation should direct the reader unambiguously to the entry in your works-cited list for the source – and, if possible, to a passage in the source – while creating the least possible interruption in your text (MLA Handbook 54).

Works Cited


Note this is an example with no author and an edition statement!

Long-quote example (more than 4 lines of poetry or verse):

Scott Sheffield, Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, offered a rousing talk at Convocation this year, quoting the groundbreaking musical, Hamilton.

It's time to take a shot  
Rise up, rise up, it's time to take a shot  
Rise up, it's time to take a shot  
Rise up, take a shot, shot, shot  
It's time to take a shot, time to take a shot  
And I am not throwing away my shot  
Not throwing away my shot. (Lin-Manuel)

Works Cited

MORE WORKS-CITED EXAMPLES AND TEMPLATES

General Format:

Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Source.” Title of First Container: Book, Journal, Etc, other contributions by Firstname Lastname, Version, vol. #, no. #, Publisher, Publication date, Location (page #s, paragraph #s, URL, or DOI). Second Container Title (database), Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of access if needed.

Entire Book, 1 Author (Print):


Lastname, Firstname. Title of Source: Italicize Book Titles. Publisher, Publication date.

Entire Book, 2 Authors (Print):

DeSalle, Rob, and Susan L. Perkins. Welcome to the Microbiome: Getting to Know the Trillions of Bacteria and Other Microbes In, On, and Around You. Illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne, Yale UP, 2015.

Lastname, First, and Firstname M. Lastname. Title of Source: Italicize Book Titles. Other contributions by Firstname M. Lastname, Publisher, Publication date.

Entire Book, 3 or More Authors (Print):


Lastname, Firstname, et al. Title of Source: Italicize Book Titles. Publisher, Publication date.

Entire Book, Edited Collection (Print – No Author):


Title of Source: Italicize Book Titles. Other contributions by F. M. Lastname, contribution by Firstname Lastname, Publisher, Publication date.

Work in an Anthology (Print):


Lastname, F. Middle. “Source Title: Essay Titles in Quotation Marks.” First Container: Italicize Book Titles, other contributions by F. M. Lastname, contribution by Firstname Lastname, Publisher, Publication date.
Encyclopedia Article (Print):


Lastname, Firstname M. “Title of Source: Articles in Quotation Marks.” First Container: Italicize Book Titles, other contributions by Firstname Lastname, contribution by Firstname Lastname, vol. #: A-Z, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Journal Article (Print):


Formats for Electronic Resources

A Note on Location and the Use of URLs in MLA

Include a URL or web address to help readers locate your sources. Because web addresses change and your source may appear in multiple places, please include citing containers such as Youtube, JSTOR, Spotify, or Netflix. MLA only requires the www. address, so eliminate all https:// when citing URLs. If a DOI (digital object identifier) is available, cite the DOI number instead of the URL. Online sources may include a “permalink,” which is a shortened, stable version of a URL. Look for a “share” or “cite this” button to see if a source includes a permalink. If you can find a permalink, use that instead of a URL.

Basic Format:

Author. “Title”. *Title of container* (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). 2nd container’s title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

Entire eBook Accessed through Database with PermaLink (Stable URL):


Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Source: Italicize Book Titles*. Publisher, Publication date. Second Container: Italicize Database Names, Location.
Chapter in eBook Accessed through Database with Stable URL:


Newspaper Article accessed through database (No Author):

"NC Teacher of the Year to Visit Brevard College." *Asheville Citizen - Times*, Mar 15 2017, *ProQuest*, jajones.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/search?bookMark=ePnHCXMw42LgTQSztz4rA e_hSuFk0PdzVoAE6yQn6YAIFOiBMaiQkm-Amj_dlmCU1Eq6BYcBWhXmYeBJQ_Y_eJmUHVzDXH2OIVKgfGdmZBYgGwWR RvaGFuDmzG9vKxsSqwDmQzEt. Accessed Sept. 2018.


Journal Article accessed through database with DOI (digital object identifier):


Websites

Entire Website (Online) (No Author):


*Source Title: Italicize Website Names*. Publisher, Publication date, Location. (Access Date)
Page on a Website (Online), (Author):

Lastname, Firstname. “Source Title: Article Titles Go in Quotation Marks.” Source Title: *Italicize Website Names*, Publication date, Location, Access date.

Article in Online Journal (with access date):

Lastname, Firstname. “Source Title: Article Titles Go in Quotation Marks.” First Container: *Italicize Online Magazine Titles*, Publication date, Location, Access date.

Blog Entry or Post (Online):

Lastname, Firstname, M. “Source Title: Article Titles Go in Quotation Marks.” First Container: *Italicize Online Magazine Titles*, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Interview (Online)

Lastname, Firstname. Source. Other contributions by Firstname Lastname, Date.

Video on a Website (Online)
“Purdue OWL: MLA Formatting: List of Works Cited.” YouTube, Purdue Online Writing Lab, 17 August 2012, youtu.be/EaFcJ3f4fJk.

“Source Title: Article Titles Go in Quotation Marks.” First Container: *Italicize Online Content Platforms*, Publisher, Publication date, Location.