

Formatting

Firstname Lastname	Lastname 1
Professor Name	
Course Title	
26 July 2017	
The Joys of MLA Citation	
The beauty of citation styles is that they allow writers to mention ideas in brief without leaving readers in the dark about how to find out more. Listing sources clarifies the ideas' origins. . . .	

Figure 1: Top of the first page of a paper

MLA Papers should follow these guidelines:

- The entire paper, from the heading through the Works Cited page, should be double spaced.
- Each page should have a **running head** one half inch from the top of the page with the author's last name and the page number. This running head begins on the first page and should automatically appear on subsequent pages.
- The four-line **heading** appears only on the first page (**not** in the running head) and should include the student name, professor name, course name and number, and date typed in the top left corner and double spaced.
- The title of the paper should be centered, capitalized, and placed below the date.

Block Quotes (MLA 254-255)

When a quote runs four or more lines, use the block quote format. Block quotes usually begin by introducing the source. Double space the quote and start it on a new line, usually after a colon:

Indent the entire quote one-half inch or two tab spaces as seen here. Do not use quotation marks around a block quote. Place the citation after the period. (Westing 88)

Using Sources (MLA 252-279)

Summarizing

A summary is a condensed explanation of the source's main ideas, written in one's own words. Place the citation for the summary at the end of the summarized words, even if that falls in the middle of the paragraph. Place the sentence period after the citation parentheses.

Paraphrasing

A paraphrase is a full explanation of part of the source's information in one's own words and is often lengthier than the source's original wording. Place in-text citations at the end of the paraphrased words, even if that falls in the middle of the paragraph. Place the sentence period after the citation parentheses.

In-Text Citations (MLA 227-251)

Each time a source is quoted directly or paraphrased in a paper, it should be accurately cited in parentheses and then listed on the Works Cited page. Follow these basic guidelines when citing sources in the body of the paper:

- Most in-text citations consist of the author's last name and the page number where the information was found.
- If the author's name is mentioned in the sentence, only include the page number in the citation.
- Always place quotation marks around direct quotes.
- Paraphrasing needs citation but not quotation marks.
- Citations are placed after quotation marks, but the period goes after the citation: "Put the period after the citation" (Smith 389).

Common Citations in the Text of a Paper

One Author

(Jackson 1).

Two Authors

(Jackson and Hess 239).

Three or More Authors

(Jackson et al. 23).

No Author

(Use the first two or three words from title).

"Black Hair is Better" ("Black Hair" 37).

More Than One Work by the Same Author

(Add title to citation to clarify which work).

(Bartholomae, "Inventing the University" 635).

Indirect Sources

(qtd. in Neuhaus 65).

Works Cited

Each source that is quoted or paraphrased in a paper should be listed on the Works Cited page. Entries should be in alphabetical order, double spaced, and formatted with a hanging indent.

Tyson 15
Works Cited
Bounder, Marcus. "Typhoon." <i>The Heath Anthology of American Literature</i> , edited by Paul Lauter, 4th ed., vol. 2, Houghton, 2002, pp. 5-27.

Figure 2: Top of a Works Cited page

MLA Core Elements (MLA 105)

Citations are formed by ordering information based on its level of importance. For each of the sources listed in the Works Cited page, information is presented in the following hierarchy with proper punctuation. These core elements are as follows:

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

Supplemental Elements (MLA 208-216)

Depending on how you use the source, some citations might require additional information. The positioning of these optional elements varies. Some elements are placed in the middle of the citation while others are at the end of the citation. Examples of these are shown throughout our Works Cited Citation Examples.

- 1- Date of Original Publication
- 2- Publication History
- 3- City of Publication
- 4- Multivolume Publication
- 5- Source's Series
- 6- Unexpected Source Medium
- 7- Date of Access *(Highly Recommended)

Works Cited Citation Examples

Confirm that source information is reputable and reliable. If each element of the citation is not available, cite the elements you can locate. Here are some citation examples:

Book with One Author (MLA 111, 313)

Jackson, Molly. *Good Timing*. Penguin, 2000.

Book with Two Authors (MLA 111-112, 313)

Jackson, Molly, and Janet Hess. *Going Crazy*. Doubleday, 1999.

Book with Three or More Authors (MLA 112-113, 313)

Davies, John, et al. *Castles and the Anglo-Norman World*. Oxbow Books, 2015.

Book with an Editor or Translator (MLA 149-152, 314)

Larsson, Stieg. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Translated by Reg Keeland, Knopf Doubleday, 2005.

Online Book in Academic Database (MLA 316, 325)

Paul, Nicholas, and Suzanne Yeager. *Remembering the Crusades: Myth, Image, and Identity*. E-book ed., John Hopkins University Press, 2012. *EBSCO Host*, web.p.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/?vid=0&sid.

Work in an Anthology (MLA 134-138)

Dreiser, Theodore. "Typhoon." *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, edited by Paul Lauter, 4th ed., vol. 2, Houghton, 2002, pp. 5-27.

Print Journal Article (MLA 178, 319)

Hagi, George. "Famous Romanian Footballers." *The Wheston Review*, vol. 10, no. 2, 1994, pp. 12-17.

Journal Article in an Online Database (MLA 178, 320)

Dostal, Petr, et al. "The Impact of an Invasive Plant Changes Over Time." *Ecology Letters*, vol. 16, 2013, pp. 1277-1284. *EBSCO Host*, doi.org/10.1111/ele.12166. Accessed 15 Nov. 2017.

*For online sources, include the digital object identifier (DOI) or permalink/stable URL.

Webpage (MLA 324-328)

Etrusia. "Who Were the Normans?" *The Normans: The Norman Invasion and Conquest of England*, normans.etrusia.co.uk/whowere.php. Accessed 14 Nov. 2017.

Lecture Heard In Person (MLA 335)

Doe, John. Lecture. Introduction to World History, 17 April 2020, Weber State University.

Image (MLA 332)

Sheldon, Natasha. Photograph of *The Muleteer*. "Human Remains in Pompeii: The Body Casts," by Sheldon, 23 Mar. 2014. *Decoded Past*, decodedpast.com/human-remains-pompeii-body-casts/7532/.

Print Newspaper Article (MLA 177, 321-322)

Wilson, Tim. "Nitwit Hunt." *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 Jan. 1982, pp. B1+.

Print Magazine Article (MLA 326)

Connor, Tom. "Writing in Style." *Writer's Digest*, 12 Aug. 2005, pp. 25-29.

Online News/Magazine Article (MLA 326)

Carruthers, Susan. "How World War II's 'Dear John' Letters Changed American Society." *Time Magazine*, 14 Feb. 2022, time.com/6137746/dear-john-letters-world-war-ii/.

Documentary Uploaded to Online Site (MLA 202, 329)

Morris, Marc. "The Normans and Their Castles." *Castle*, season 1, episode 1, Discovery Channel, 2003. *YouTube*, uploaded by Documentartytime, 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAj9raQuaGg. Accessed 15 Feb. 2022.

Film Accessed Via Streaming Site (MLA 147, 202)

The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring. Directed by Peter Jackson, New Line Cinema, 2001. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com.

YouTube Original Content

"Popular Words Invented by Authors." *YouTube*, uploaded by Storied, 28 Jul. 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgDAFxVm5tw. Accessed 8 June 2022.

TV Episode (MLA 158-163, 329)

"Fear Itself." *Teen Titans*, directed by Michael Chang, written by Dwayne McDuffie, season 2, episode 5, Cartoon Network, 2004.

Music (MLA 180, 330)

Beatles. "Yellow Submarine." *I*, Abbey Road Studios, 13 Nov. 2000. Originally released in *Revolver*, 1966.

Personal Interview (MLA 336)

Feal, Rosemary G. Personal communication with author. 6 Feb. 2017.

Corporate or Government Author (MLA 313, 343)

Cite the source by the corporate author even if the corporate author is also the publisher. When citing, corporate authors, omit any initial article: *a*, *an*, or *the*. National Research Council. *Beyond Six Billion: Forecasting the World's Population*. Washington D.C., National Academy, 2000.

Information compiled from the *MLA Handbook*. 9th Ed. Updated 2022 by Sarah Taylor, Amy Kees, Alexis Taylor, & Hannah Bouy. Special thanks to Kyra Hudson.

MLA Documentation

9th Edition Quick Reference Guide

What is MLA Style?

Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is the formatting method used by academic humanities writers generally to help scholars lead one another to the sources they have used in their writing.

This edition of the MLA style guide is best used with reference to its very helpful and in-depth website:

style.mla.org

Weber State University Writing Center
EH 210 (Ogden)
801-626-6463
and
D2 214 (Davis)
801-395-3569

weber.edu/WritingCenter/resources.html