



MLA Style 9th Edition Citations

The Modern Language Association’s citation style, MLA, is one of many different documentation guidelines used for scholarly papers. MLA primarily focuses on the following elements, which are presented in the order they appear in a citation with the corresponding punctuation:

- Author.
- Title of source.
- Title of container,
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location.

Note: Not every source will include all these elements. When an element is not available or does not pertain to a source, omit it, and proceed to the next. The current form of MLA is based more on guidelines than hard rules. It is not necessary to cite common knowledge, passing mentions, allusions, or epigraphs.

In-Text Citations

MLA requires an author/page number style of in-text citation for direct quotations and paraphrasing. The in-text citation will refer the reader to a “Works Cited” list at the end of the paper. If an author’s name is in your sentence, you will only reference the page number. If it is not, the author’s name and page number are both included. Unlike APA, no comma is required between the author’s name and page number.

- If your source is from a group author/organization, use the name of the group and page number. Abbreviate names (like nat’l for national) when appropriate to avoid lengthy in-text citations.
- When citing a poem, use line numbers: (lines 5–8).
- Citations of chapters and scenes should be abbreviated: (ch. 5) or (sc. 2).
- When citing a website, include the first part that appears in the Works Cited page (like author name, article name, website name, etc.).
 - Page numbers are usually not needed when citing a website. Do not provide paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your web browser’s print preview function.
- If the source is a video or podcast, use the time interval to which you are referring: (00:02:15–00:02:35).

Examples

The author states, “For many contemporary readers, textual annotation remains integral to reading”
(Baron 194).

Baron claims, “For many contemporary readers, textual annotation remains integral to reading” (194).

If you have two authors with the same last name, clarify which author you are referring to by using the first initial before their last name. For example:

“For many contemporary readers, textual annotation remains integral to reading” (N. Baron 194).

If you have two works by the same author, you will need to clarify which source you are referring to. For example:

“For many contemporary readers, textual annotation remains integral to reading” (Baron, “Redefining Reading” 194).

If the source has no known author, use the title instead. Shorten the title to a noun phrase, clause, or first punctuation mark if needed. For example:

“For many contemporary readers, textual annotation remains integral to reading” (“Redefining Reading” 194).

Works Cited

In MLA, the alphabetical list of bibliographic entries is called “Works Cited.” Each source you cite in the paper using an in-text citation(s) must have a corresponding entry on the Works Cited page and vice versa. The list should begin on a new page at the end of the paper, and the title words Works Cited should be centered but not underlined, bolded, italicized, or in quotes. Entries should always be in alphabetical order by the first word of the citation. All entries are double-spaced. Entries are formatted with a hanging indent. Do not number your entries.

The following is a limited list of citations you may encounter with examples. For a more comprehensive list, use the 9th edition of the *MLA Handbook* (copies are available in the Excel Multiliteracy Center), the online [MLA Style Center](#), or the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#).

Book with One Author

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

Book with Two Authors

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

Book with Three or More Authors

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

Article in a Magazine

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70–71.

Webpage

Herrity, Jennifer. "How To Make a Great Impression in a Job Interview: 20 Tips." *Indeed*, 12 Mar. 2024,
www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/job-interview-tips-how-to-make-a-great-impression.

Accessed 29 Mar. 2024.

Article in an Online-Only Scholarly Journal

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008,

www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

YouTube Video

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

Speeches and Lectures

Stein, Bob. "Reading and Writing in the Digital Era." Discovering Digital Dimensions, Computers and Writing Conference, 23 May 2003, Union Club Hotel, West Lafayette, IN. Keynote Address.

Personal Interview

Michaels, Carl. Personal interview. 30 April 2009.

Need more information or assistance?

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