MLA Citation Style QuickGuide

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Introduction

This guide is based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (9th edition, 2021). For more information and examples, see the *MLA Handbook* (print) and the *MLA Style Center* (online).

For more citation resources, visit the <u>Citation and Reference Management guide</u>. Have any questions? <u>Ask us!</u>

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Overview of MLA style

MLA style includes **in-text citations** throughout your writing and a **works cited list** at the end of your document, which provides full details about your cited sources.

In-text citations

These guidelines will help you get started. For more details, see the *MLA Handbook*, Chapter 6; and the "What is an In-Text Citation?" chapter in the *MLA Style Citation Tutorial*.

An in-text citation usually includes the **author's last name and the page(s)** being cited. You may put a citation in brackets at the end of a sentence (parenthetical citation) or work the author's name into the sentence as part of your writing (narrative citation). For example:

- Parenthetical citation: (Alfar 57)
- Narrative citation: Alfar described gender roles in Shakespeare's works (57).

If you are citing **poetry**, use a line number instead of a page number. The first time you cite the poem, add the word "line" or "lines" to indicate line numbers. For example:

- First citation: (Vaughan lines 15–20)
- Subsequent citations: (Vaughan 17)

To cite an audiovisual work, use times or time ranges. For example: (Beatles 00:02:02)

If your source has **no page numbers** (e.g., a webpage), just include the author's name in your citation. For example: (Rose)

Quotation guidelines

If you use another author's exact words, put quotation marks around them. For example:

• Parenthetical citation: Universal design "is a form of hope, a manner of trying" (Dolmage 116).

• Narrative citation: Dolmage argues that universal design "is a form of hope, a manner of trying" (116).

Author variations

To cite a work with **two authors**, include both authors' last names. For example:

- Parenthetical citation: (Stuessy and Lipscomb 302)
- Narrative citation: According to Stuessy and Lipscomb ... (302).

For a work with **three or more authors**, include the first author's last name, followed by "et al.," which means "and others." for example:

- Parenthetical citation: (Kameron et al. 61)
- Narrative citation: Kameron et al. observed that ... (61).

If the work is by an **organization**, use the name of the organization in the in-text citation. For example: (United Nations Human Settlements Programme 76).

If the work has **no listed author**, put the title in the in-text citation instead. Shorten longer titles to the initial noun or noun phrase (*MLA Handbook*, section 6.10). For example: ("Feudalism" 463).

Citing Indirect Sources

MLA recommends citing information sources you consulted firsthand whenever possible. If you want to cite a work that is quoted in another source, put the abbreviation "qtd. in" before the in-text citation to the indirect source you consulted. For example: (qtd. in Alfar 54). Only include the work you consulted in your works cited list. For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 6.77, and Citing Indirect Sources in the MLA Style Centre.

Works cited list

Works cited entries should be organized alphabetically and formatted with a <u>hanging indent</u>, as in the <u>Example works cited list</u> at the end of this guide. See the *MLA Handbook*, chapter 5, for formatting details.

Citations may contain the following core elements:

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

If any of the elements are not relevant or not included in the work you're citing, skip to the next element. In some cases, you may include supplemental elements, like the original publication date or the date of access for an online work (see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.105).

You can use the <u>Interactive Practice Template</u> from the MLA Style Centre to help assemble your citations.

Author

The author is the main person or group responsible for a work. If there is **one author**, include the last name, followed by the first name and any initials. For example:

Alfar, Cristina L.

If a work has **two authors**, list both names in the works cited list entry. Only invert the first author's name. For example:

Stuessy, Joe, and Scott Lipscomb.

For a work with **three or more authors**, include the first author's name, followed by "et al." for example:

Christopher, Kameron R., et al.

If the author is an **organization**, begin the entry with the organization name. For example: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

If an organization is both author and publisher, skip the author element and start the citation with the title.

If a work has **editors instead of authors**, add the word "editor" or "editors" after their names. For example:

Froggatt, Katherine, et al., editors.

For more information about the author element, see the MLA Handbook, section 5.5.

Title of source

The second element is the title of the work you are citing. The format varies depending on the type of source.

If the work is **part of a larger whole** (e.g., book chapter, webpage, journal article), put the title in quotation marks. For example:

"Beat Poetry and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance."

For a **standalone work** (e.g., book, film, dissertation), italicize the title. For example: *Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development*.

If a work has no title, give a brief description instead. Only capitalize the first word and any proper nouns. For example:

Advertisement for CAPSID installation by John Walter.

For more information about titles, see the MLA Handbook, section 5.25.

Title of container

The container is the larger work that contains the source you are citing. Some sources, like print books, do not have a container. Or, a single source can have multiple containers. For example, a journal article in a library database has two containers: the journal (e.g., *Folk Music Journal*) and the database (e.g., *JSTOR*). The container title is capitalized and italicized. For more information about containers, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.37.

Contributor

The contributor element includes those who made key contributions to a work, aside from the author(s). This can include editors, translators, directors, illustrators, and more. For more information about contributors, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.43.

Version

Version usually refers to a specific edition of a work (e.g., 7th ed.), but it can also include details like software formats (e.g., E-book ed.). For more information about versions, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.50.

Number

Number most often refers to a volume and/or issue of a publication. For example: vol. 11, no. 2. For more information about the number element, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.53.

Publisher

The publisher is the organization responsible for producing a work. A publisher is not included for certain types of sources (journal articles, works published by their authors, platforms like YouTube where users upload content). If a work is published by a university press, those two words should be abbreviated to "UP." for example: U of Delaware P. For more information about publishers, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.59.

Publication date

A citation should include the date a source was published or last updated. The date may be formatted differently depending on the type of source. For example:

- Book or journal article: year of publication: 2003
- Magazine article: month of the issue: Jan.–Feb. 2015
- Webpage: exact date: 15 Feb. 2019

For more information about the date element, see the MLA Handbook, section 5.77.

Location

The location can include different pieces of information depending on the type of source. For a book chapter, page numbers indicate the location within the work. For a journal article, both page numbers and a digital object identifier (DOI) or URL are part of the location element.

MLA gives these guidelines for online works:

- If a DOI is available, use it instead of a URL.
- If you use a URL, make sure to use a permanent or stable link.
 - If a URL "runs more than three full lines or is longer than the rest of the entry, truncate it" (sec. 5.96). For example: search.library.ualberta.ca. Make sure the shortened link still works.
 - Do not break a URL; an accurate link is generally more important than even line breaks.

For more information about the location element, see the MLA Handbook, section 5.88.

Works cited list templates and examples

This guide includes templates for references to different types of sources. Sometimes, a template might not exactly match the source you are citing. You can use it as a guide, and if you need more information or examples, check the *MLA Handbook*, the <u>MLA Style Center</u>, or other citation resources.

Books

Template

Authors. Title: Subtitle. Edition, Publisher, Year of publication. Database, DOI or public URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, pp. 313–17.

Print book

Alfar, Cristina L. Fantasies of Female Evil: The Dynamics of Gender and Power in Shakespearean Tragedy. U of Delaware P, 2003.

Book, specified edition

Stuessy, Joe, and Scott Lipscomb. *Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development.* 7th ed., Pearson, 2013.

Ebook, on a website

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. Estes and Lauriat, 1881. *Google Books*, books.google.ca/books?id=fhUXAAAAYAAJ.

Ebook, digital file

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. E-book ed., Vintage International, 2007.

Ebook, in a library database

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. *Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility: Global Report on Human Settlements* 2013. Routledge, 2013. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com.

Edited book

Froggatt, Katherine, et al., editors. *Understanding Care Homes: A Research and Development Perspective*. Kingsley, 2009.

Note: Include "editor" or "editors" after the editor names.

Book chapters and reference book entries

Template

Authors. "Title of Chapter or Entry." *Title of Book*. Editors, edition, Publisher, year of publication, pages. *Database*, DOI or public URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, pp. 318, 325, & 328.

Chapter or article in an edited book

Charters, Ann. "Beat Poetry and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance." *The Columbia History of American Poetry*, edited by Jay Parini and Brett C. Millier, Columbia UP, 1993, pp. 581–604.

Poem, short story, or other work in an anthology

Vaughan, Henry. "I Walked the Other Day (To Spend My Hour)." 1655. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, M.H. Abrams, general editor, 6th ed., vol. 1, W. W. Norton, 1993, pp. 1409–10.

Note: You may include the date of original publication of the work. This date goes directly after the title, as in the above example (*MLA Handbook*, section 5.108).

Dictionary entry, print, with no author

"Feudalism, N." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., Merriam-Webster, 2003, p. 463.

Note: Reference book entries are generally treated like book chapters. If the entry has both an author and a book editor, cite it like a chapter in an edited book.

Encyclopedia entry, print, with author

Bowman, Durrell. "Festival of the Sound." *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*, edited by Helmut Kallman et al., 2nd ed., U of Toronto P, 1992, pp. 448–49.

Reference book entry, online, with a DOI

Annas, Julia. "Plato." *The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization*, edited by Simon Hornblower et al., 2nd ed., Oxford UP, 2014. *Oxford Reference*, https://doi.org/10.1093/acref/9780198706779.001.0001.

Articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers

Template

Authors. "Article Title." *Publication Title*, vol. #, no. #, publication date, pages. DOI or public URL.

Note: Volume numbers are abbreviated as "vol. #," and issue numbers are abbreviated as "no. #." For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, pp. 319–323.

Journal article, in a print issue

Kazemipur, Abdolmohammad, and Shiva Halli. "The Invisible Barrier: Neighbourhood Poverty and Integration of Immigrants in Canada." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2000, pp. 85–100.

Journal article, in a library database, with DOI

Anderson, Emma. "Residential School Saint: The Life, Death, and Turbulent Afterlife of Rose Prince of the Carrier Nation." *Church History*, vol. 89, no. 3, 2020, pp. 592–632. *EBSCOhost*, https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009640720001341.

Journal article, in a library database, no DOI

Heaney, Michael. "Folk Dance and Theatrical Performance in the Eighteenth Century." *Folk Music Journal*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2017, pp. 6–16. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/44987619.

Journal article, on a website

Taber, Nancy. "Detectives and Bail Bonds 'Persons' as Fairy Tale Hero/ines: A Feminist Antimilitarist Analysis of Grimm and Once Upon a Time." *Gender Forum*, no. 44, 2013, genderforum.org/gender-and-fairy-tales-issue-44-2013.

Magazine article, in a print issue

Branswell, Brenda, and Peter Kopvillem. "Storm Warnings: Language Divides Even the Separatists." *Maclean's*, 25 Nov. 1996, pp. 78–79.

Magazine article, on a website

Epstein, Joseph. "How I Learned to Love the Draft." *The Atlantic*, Jan.—Feb. 2015, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/how-i-learned-to-love-the-draft/383500/.

Newspaper article, in a print issue

Picard, Andre. "Top Court Upholds Province's Tobacco Display Law." *The Globe and Mail*, 20 Jan. 2005, p. A11.

Newspaper article, in a print issue

Cowan, Pamela. "Store Owner Displays Message to Government." *Leader Post* [Regina], final edition, 25 Jan. 2005, p. B4. ProQuest, proquest.com/docview/349800287.

Note: If a local newspaper does not include a city name in its title, provide the city in square brackets (*MLA Handbook*, section 5.122).

Canadian statutes

Template

Authors. Title. Date of release or most recent revision and chapter revised, date accessed, public URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, sections 2.110, 5.20, 5.21, & 5.118, and p. 344).

Example

Government of Canada. Criminal Code. RSC 1985, c. C-46, 6 May 2021, laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/fulltext.html.

Dissertations and theses

Template

Author. *Dissertation or Thesis Title: Subtitle*. Year of publication. University name, Master's thesis or Doctoral dissertation. *Database*, Public URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, p. 339.

Dissertation or thesis, in a library database

Hut, Willa B. *Perspectives on Teaching and Learning at an Anti-Racist School*. 2021. Pratt Institute, PhD Dissertation. *ProQuest*, www.proquest.com/docview/2548555438.

Films

Template

Title of Film. Written by Author, directed by director, performance by performer, Production Company, Year of release. *Platform*.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.44 and p. 328.

Film

Like Water for Chocolate. Written by Laura Esquivel, directed by Alphonso Arau, performance by Lumi Cavazos et al., Miramax, 1993.

Film, viewed on an app

Jane Eyre. Performance by Mia Wasikowska et al., Focus Features, 2011. Netflix app.

Online videos

Template

"Title of Video." Website, uploader name, date posted, URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook* pp. 329 & 335.

Online video, on a sharing site

"Chopin – Nocturne Op.9 No.2." *YouTube*, uploaded by Andrea Romano, 19 June 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E6b3swbnWg.

Online video, presentation recording

Brown, Brené. "The Power of Vulnerability." *TED*, June 2010, www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability.

TV episodes

Template

"Name of episode." *Title of Show*, season number, episode number, streaming provider, year of release. *Platform*, public URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, p. 329.

Example

"It's Comedy or Cabbage." *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, season 3, episode 5, Amazon, 2019. *Amazon Prime*, www.primevideo.com.

Music recordings, scores, and performances

Template

Composers or Performers. "Title of Song." *Title of Full Work*. Contributors, Production Company, Year of release.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.18 and pp. 330 & 334.

Music Recording, entire album

Stravinsky, Igor. *The Essential Stravinsky*. Performance by Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Neeme Järvi, Chandos, 2002.

Music Recording, specific song, streamed with an app

Beatles. "A Day in the Life." *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, composed by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Parlophone, 1967. *Spotify* app.

Score

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte): In Full Score*. 1791. Dover, 1985.

Performance, like a play or concert

Dear Evan Hansen. Music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, 16 Feb. 2020, Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton.

Presentations, slides, and lecture notes

Template

Authors. "Title of slides or lecture notes." Course name. Platform, date, University name, City.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.28 and pp. 334, 335, & 341.

Slides or lecture notes, in Canvas or on a website

Schmoe, Joe. "Sociology Week 1 Slides." Introduction to Sociology. *eClass*, U of Alberta, 15 Feb. 2019, eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal.

Presentation, speech, or lecture

Schmoe, Joe. Lecture. Introduction to sociology, 15 Feb. 2019, U of Alberta, Camrose.

Note: For a lecture or other presentation with no title, give a brief description instead.

Webpages

Template

Authors. "Title of Page." Title of Website, Publisher, Date posted or updated, URL.

Note: For more information, see the MLA Handbook, section 5.111 and p. 324.

Entire website

Shakespeare Lives. British Council, 2016, shakespearelives.org.

Note: "When a nongovernment organization is both author and publisher, you may skip the author element and begin the entry with the work's title. List the organization only as publisher" (*MLA Handbook*, section 5.19).

Webpage, with author, date unknown

Rose, Emily. "Female Immigrants Face Gender Barriers in Careers." *Canadian Immigrant*, Metroland Media Group, canadianimmigrant.ca/living/women/female-immigrants-face-gender-barriers-in-careers. Accessed 22 Mar. 2016.

Note: If a work does not include a publication date, give the date you accessed it at the end of the citation (*MLA Handbook*, section 5.111)

Webpage, unknown author

"Charlie Chaplin." *History*, AETN UK, 14 Jan. 2013, www.history.co.uk/biographies/charlie-chaplin.

Reports by organizations

Template

Organization Name. Title of Report. Publisher, publication date, URL.

Report by organization

2021-22 Student EDI Census Report. University of Alberta, 17 Jan. 2023, https://www.ualberta.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion/media-library/edi/survey-and-reports-page/student-edi-demographic-census-report-2021-22.pdf.

Note: If a work is written and published by a non-government organization, skip the author element and just include the publisher (*MLA Handbook*, section 5.19). If individual author(s) are named, list them.

Social media posts

Template

Author [@username]. "Content of post." Social media platform, date posted, URL.

Note: For more information, see the MLA Handbook section 5.16 and p. 326.

Example

Obama, Barack [@POTUS]. "Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins." *Twitter*, 26 June 2015, twitter.com/POTUS/status/614435467120001024.

Video games

Template

Title of Game. Version, Company, release date.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.50 and p. 342.

Example

Northgard. Nintendo Switch ed., Shiro Games, 26 Sept. 2019.

Podcast episodes

Template

"Title of Episode." Title of Series, hosts, Publisher, Date of episode, URL.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.31.

Example

"Family Names." *Telling Our Twisted Histories*, hosted by Kaniehti:io Horn, CBC Podcasts, 2021, https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/906-telling-our-twisted-histories.

Generative AI models

Template

"Title of source" prompt. *Name of AI Tool*, version, Company, Date content was generated, URL to AI tool or archived content.

Note: For more information, see <u>How Do I Cite Generative AI in MLA Style?</u> from the MLA Style Centre.

Example

"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

Note: For more information, visit the <u>guide to using and citing generative Al</u>.

Works of art

Template

Creator. Title. Year of creation. Location or source details. Medium and dimensions (optional).

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, p. 332.

Reproduced online

Manet, Édouard. *Jeanne (Spring)*. 1881. The J. Paul Getty Museum, www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/268843/edouard-manet-jeanne-spring-french-1881. Oil on canvas, 74 x 51.5 cm.

Reproduced in a book

Virtue, John. Landscape No. 67. 1987. The Art of Drawing: British Masters and Methods Since 1600, by Susan Owens, V&A Publishing, 2013, p. 180, plate 144. Pen and ink, graphite, charcoal, shellac and white gouache, 173 x 154 cm.

Reproduced in a journal or magazine (not part of an article)

Fiada, Faron. *Three Girls by the Sea. New American Paintings*, no. 143, vol. 24, no. 4, Aug.—Sept. 2019, p. 52. Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in.

Reproduced in a journal or magazine article

Korman, Ira. *Redemption*. 2009. "Take a Tonal Approach to Drawing Portraits," by Bob Bahr. *American Artist Drawing*, Summer 2010, p. 76. Charcoal, 15.25 x 12.5 in.

Viewed firsthand

Monks, Alyssa. *Unfold*. 2018, Forum Gallery, New York. Oil on linen, 66 x 56 in.

Personal communications

Template

Author. Description of communication. Date.

Note: For more information, see the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.23 and p. 340.

Personal communications

Smith, Sarah. Email to the author. 27 Jan. 2014.

Example illustration with caption

Include the same citation components as you would in a Works Cited list entry. If you include full citation details in the caption and do not cite the source in your text, you do not need to include a Works Cited list entry for the illustration. If you do cite the source in your text, you should include a works cited list entry. For more information about illustrations, see the MLA Style Center and MLA Handbook, section 1.7.



Fig. 1. Leonardo da Vinci, *The Head and Shoulders of a Woman, Almost in Profile*, circa 1485–90, *Wikimedia Commons*, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_Vinci._The_head_and_shoulders_of_a_woman.jpg, metalpoint on pale blue prepared paper, 16.5 x 12.4 cm.

Example works cited list

Works Cited

- Advertisement for CAPSID installation by John Walter. Art Monthly, no. 421, Nov. 2018, p. 11.
- Alfar, Cristina L. Fantasies of Female Evil: The Dynamics of Gender and Power in Shakespearean Tragedy. U of Delaware P, 2003.
- "Charlie Chaplin." *History*, AETN UK, 14 Jan. 2013, www.history.co.uk/biographies/charlie-chaplin.
- Charters, Ann. "Beat Poetry and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance." *The Columbia History of American Poetry*, edited by Jay Parini and Brett C. Millier, Columbia UP, 1993, pp. 581–604.
- "Chopin Nocturne Op.9 No.2." *YouTube*, uploaded by Andrea Romano, 19 June 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E6b3swbnWg.
- Cowan, Pamela. "Store Owner Displays Message to Government." *Leader Post* [Regina], final edition, 25 Jan. 2005, p. B4. *ProQuest*, proquest.com/docview/349800287.
- Kazemipur, Abdolmohammad, and Shiva Halli. "The Invisible Barrier: Neighbourhood Poverty and Integration of Immigrants in Canada." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2000, pp. 85–100.
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. E-book ed., Vintage International, 2007.
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte): In Full Score*. 1791. Dover, 1985.
- Obama, Barack [@POTUS]. "Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins." *Twitter*, 26 June 2015, twitter.com/POTUS/status/614435467120001024.
- Stravinsky, Igor. *The Essential Stravinsky*. Performance by Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Neeme Järvi, Chandos, 2002.