

MLA 8th Edition: What Has Changed?

The Focus:

In the 8th edition of the handbook, we see a focus not on the individual citations but on the common elements of a citation. By gathering the common elements and arranging them in a logical order, students can learn to cite any medium they encounter.

Think, Select, Organize:

The 8th edition emphasizes that students should be able to do the following:

- Think about their sources,
- Select the important information about their sources,
- Organize their works cited entry in a logical and clear manner.

Documentation:

MLA has broken down the documentation process for a works cited entry into the following, which can apply to any source:

Author

Title of the Source

The Title of the Container (This is what houses the source they are using)

Other Contributors

Version (Edition, etc...)

Number (Volumes, issues, etc...)

Publisher

Publication Date

Location (Page range for print material, URL or DOI for websites, etc...)

You should remember that:

- There can be more than one container. For example, if a student is citing a journal article, he/she would use the information from the journal for container one and the information for the database for container two.
- If the information is not available for the section requested, the student will omit that particular section.

For Your Consideration:

- Abbreviations are in the past. Now, the student should spell out editor (or edited by in the container), director, translator, etc.
- Under the "Number" category, the student will also put vol. #, no. # instead of #.#. (For example, vol. 3, no. 4 instead of 3.4)

- Students can omit the publisher if it is a periodical, a work published by its author or editor, a website whose title is the same as its publisher, and a website "not involved in producing the works it makes available" (*MLA Handbook* 42).
- Students need to also add *p.* or *pp.* to the location section if they are citing from a book with page numbers.
- URLs may be included for websites; however, it is the instructor's discretion if he/she wants the URL in the works cited entry or not.

In-Text Citations:

In-text citations will remain the same. However, if you do have a literary work that is available by multiple publishers or available in multiple editions, it might be useful to have the student provide division numbers in addition to page numbers. For example, (Austen 31, ch. 2). Also with audio and video recordings, students can cite the relevant time or range of times for a clip: ("Cooking the Books" 00:05:20-33).

Quotations:

- Prose
 - 1-4 lines, no special emphasis. *This has not changed.*
 - More than 4 lines, block half an inch from the left margin. Everything else will stay the same.
- Poetry & Drama
 - Follow the normal rules, only block half an inch from the left margin for block quotes.

Example Works Cited Page

Asma, Stephen T. *On Monsters: An Unnatural History of Our Worst Fears*. Oxford UP, 2009.

eBook Collection (EBSCOhost), <http://athena.jeffersonstate.edu:2055/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=361959&site=ehost-live>.

Bissonette, Melissa Bloom. "Teaching the Monster: *Frankenstein* and Critical Thinking."

College Literature, vol. 37, no. 3, 2010. *Learning Resource Center*, http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA234570862&v=2.1&u=avl_jeff&it=r&p=GLS&sw=w&asid=296a7fdf592c24e74d6e9b4427fc6dce.

Cohen, Jeffery Jerome. "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)." *Monsters*, edited by Brandy Ball Blake and L. Andrew Cooper, Fountainhead Press, 2012, pp. 11-33.

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Monument, Andrew, director. *Nightmares in Red, White and Blue: The Evolution of the*

American Horror Film. Lux Digital Pictures, 6 August 2009. *Netflix*, <https://www.netflix.com/watch/70135890?trkid=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2C6a5b9750-9019-42ca-9ac7-bbea19f925c0-10135983>.