The Modern Languages Association (MLA) style for documentation is widely used in the humanities. This guide provides examples for citing common types of sources and identifying them in the text of your essay. For more information, consult the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook (PE 1478 M57 2016). Copies are available at Langara Library, including one at the Reference Desk.

The Core Elements

MLA 8th edition is an updated, streamlined system of documentation created to reflect the changing nature of modes of publication in a digital age. Instead of structured examples, MLA 8th edition gives the author/writer the flexibility of using a core set of elements to base the citation on. The core elements are the base for the citation whether the item cited is a book, journal article, website, film, or something else. Keep in mind not all resource types will have every core element.

In the order they will appear in your citation, the core elements are:

**Author:** The creator(s) of the resource listed as they appear on the resource (including order), followed by a period. See below for name ordering and multiple authors.

- Single author: Anzaldúa, Gloria.
- Two authors: Simpson, Leanne, and Edna Mantiowabi. (Last, First, and First Last.)
- Three or more authors: Park, Yoon Jung, et al.

If the person or group primarily responsible for the work is not an author, you can use their name as the author element and add a description of their role (D’arcens, Louise, editor.)

**Title:** The full name of the resource, in one of the formats below, followed by a period:

- *italics* (book, play, report, periodical name, film, album, TV series, entire website)
- or
- “quotation marks” (journal/newspaper/magazine article title, essay/chapter/story/poem in a collection, article or posting on a website, song name, episode name, email subject, tweet text).

**Title of container:** A container is a larger work that includes the resource you are citing. Examples include an article (title) in a journal (container title), an essay/chapter (title) in an edited book (container title), an episode (title) of a TV series (container title), or a post (title) on a website (container title). Container titles use the same rules in terms of italics and quotation marks as titles and are followed by a comma.

**Other contributors:** Credit all contributors to the work other than the author if their participation is important to your research or the identification of the work (adaptors, editors, translators, illustrators, contributing authors, etc.). Precede each name with a description of the contribution and follow with a comma (Translated by Ken Liu, Illustrated by Yoko Shimizu, Introduction by N.K. Jemisin).
**Version:** Include any notation of the resource as a version of a work released in more than one form as it appears followed by a comma. For books this is usually an edition (8th edition, revised ed.,) other resource types may have other version designations (Director’s Cut, Version 2.3.2, etc.).

**Number:** If the resource is part of a numbered sequence or is a periodical (journal, newspaper, magazine) include any notation as it appears, followed by a comma (vol. 22, no. 4, season 3, episode 6, etc.).

**Publisher:** List the name of the primary publishing organization or company as it appears on the resource, followed by a comma (The MIT Press, National Film Board, Vancouver Coastal Health,). If more than one publisher is given equal prominence, separate names with a slash (Vancouver Art Gallery/Black Dog Publishing). There is no need to list a publisher for most periodicals, a work published by its author, a website published by an organization of the same name, or a resource published by a website that does not contribute to the content (YouTube, Tumblr, etc.).

**Publication Date:** Use the date most closely associated with the version or edition of the resource you used. Write the full date as it appears on the source followed by a comma. For individual articles, posts, etc. from the web use the specific posting date; for entire websites and projects you can use a range (2008-2017). Some online sources such as Tweets or comments may also include a timestamp to include.

**Location:** Location specifies where in a work the source appears (not the place of publishing), followed by a period. Print works may have a page number (p. 67.) or page range (pp.3-5.), while online sources may optionally include a URL (a stable permalink if possible) or a DOI (digital object identifier) (doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.). MLA recommends including URLs in the works-cited list, but check with your instructor for her or his preference. In some cases the location will take the form of a disc number (series on DVD) or place (lecture, art work on exhibit, etc.).

**NOTES**

**Optional elements:** Optional elements can be included at the discretion of the writer. These include: date of original publication, city of publication, date of access, and other facts about the source. **Date of access** is important to include if the source does not specify a date of publication. It is more often included with online sources as these can typically be changed or removed at any time. Check with your instructor whether she or he prefers date of access to be included or not.

**Missing elements:** Unlike the previous version of MLA citation, you no longer need to include information that is not available from a source. Don’t use n.p. or n.d. if there are no pages or dates, just leave it out.

**In-text Citations**

In-text citations identify the sources of your information within the text of the paper and direct the reader to the full reference entry in your works cited list at the end of the paper. In-text citations include the author and the page number(s) referenced and are typically in parentheses.

**With one author**

According to Roy (32)...
Despite their initial misgivings... (Roy 32)
With two authors
   Recent research by Talmidge and Lee (67)...
   A recent study indicates that…(Talmidge and Lee 67)

With three or more authors
   The findings of Pulido et al. (23)...
   Researchers found that...(Pulido et al. 23)

With no author: Use the complete title, or a short form of the title if it is long, in place of an author.
   Book titles are italicized, article titles are put in quotation marks.
   According to the *Dictionary of Symbols* (83)...
   Recent data collected by…(“Arts funding crisis” 3)

Corporate authors: Resource authors are not always named individuals; they may be organizations, companies, or other entities.
   According to the BC Civil Liberties Association (7)...
   Current tax law stipulates that…(Revenue Canada, 223)

Multiple Sources: If you are crediting an idea to more than one source, separate citations with a semicolon within your in-text citation.
   Both authors agree that…(Miles 16; Vukovich 27)

Time-based media: When citing media such as films or videos you can include a time code expressed as hours:minutes:seconds. (Debord 01:12:45-56)

Citing Indirect Sources

If you are citing information from a source that is quoted or paraphrased from another source, note this in your in-text citation using qtd. in (“quoted in”)
   According to Huang, “a popular revolt was inevitable after the public exposure of widespread corruption” (qtd. in Xue et al. 16).

Although best practice is to track down the original source of the quotation, in some cases this may not be possible. Only include sources you have actually read in your works cited list; in the above example this would be Xue et al. (Huang’s original work was not seen but is being cited indirectly)

Quotations

Short quotations
   For quotations running four lines or less in your paper, keep the quotation in line with your text and enclose the text in double quotation marks. Quotes within quotes should be enclosed in single quotation marks. Your in-text citation should follow the quotation and come before any other punctuation.

Long quotations
   Quotations that run over four lines should be separated from your text by starting a new line and indenting all lines of the quotation one half inch from the left margin. You do not need to use double
quotation marks for long quotations. Punctuation at the end of a long quotation is placed before the parentheses of the in-text citation.

Works Cited - Examples

BOOKS – Whole books

Print book with one author

Print book with two authors

Print book with three or more authors

Print book with an editor

Print book without author or editor

Print book with corporate author

Print book in a second or subsequent edition

Ebook from a library collection (e.g., ProQuest Ebook Central, Ebsco eBook Collection)

Ebook available online (Google Books, Hathi Trust, Project Gutenberg, etc.)

Government publication
Government document with named author

Government document where the author is the publisher

**BOOKS – Parts of books**

**Print book chapter or essay/short story/poem in an anthology or edited volume**


**Literary criticism in a book (e.g., Short Stories for Students)**

*NOTE: See page 53 in the MLA Handbook regarding citing a source previously published in another source.*

**Examples of literary criticism reprinted**


**Example of original content**

**Introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword in a print book**

**Courseware**
ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

Entry in a print encyclopedia, dictionary, or other reference work with an author

Entry in an online encyclopedia, dictionary or other reference source

ARTICLES

Journal article, print

Journal article, freely available online

Note: it is preferable to use a DOI if available. Otherwise use a permalink or stable link.

Journal article, from a library database with a DOI

Journal article, from a library database without a DOI

Magazine article, print

Magazine article, online

Magazine article, from library database
Newspaper article, print

Newspaper article, online

Newspaper article, from library database

IMAGES, VIDEOS, DVDS, SOUND RECORDINGS

Work of visual art in a book or print source

Work of visual art in an online database (Artstor etc.)

Work of visual art found on the Web

Image found online, as part of web page or blog post

Film, DVD, video

Streaming media from a library database (Kanopy, Criterion-on-demand, etc.)

Note: it is optional to include additional roles such as performers etc. if their participation is important to your research or the identification of the work.

Streaming media from the web (YouTube etc.)

**Music, recording**

**Podcast**

**WEBSITES**

**Webpage with named author**

**Webpage with corporate author**

**Webpage with no named author**

**Wikipedia or other online reference source**

**OTHER SOURCES**

**Class Handout**

**Class Lecture**

**Personal interview (conducted by yourself)**