

# MLA CITATION & STYLE GUIDE



## 9TH EDITION

Assembled by the Library Resources Committee – Spring 2022

# MLA CITATION AND STYLE GUIDE

One of the most commonly used citation styles is MLA (Works Cited). Check with your professor about which format they expect you to use. The most common components that make up a citation include:

Author(s)

Editor(s)

Title (article, book, chapter, journal, etc.)

Date (published or created). All months five letters or longer are shortened to the first three letters followed by a period. (March is Mar.; July is July; and December is Dec.).

Publisher

Edition

Page Number(s)

Date Accessed (for online sources)

## MLA Works Cited Formatting

When creating a citation, make sure to use 12pt Times New Roman and to double space entries.

Purdue OWL provides guidelines for papers using MLA style, [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html)

### Reasons to Cite:

- To support your writing with powerful information and data via quotation, paraphrasing, or summary of authoritative sources.
- To give credit where credit is due in order to receive recognition for your own hard work and excellent research.
- To demonstrate that you have located valuable and current sources.
- To avoid plagiarizing when doing careful close reading and research.

## **MLA In-Text Citations**

Whenever you cite a book, magazine, scholarly journal, or other source within the body of your paper, the in-text citation will reflect your Works Cited page.

### Works Cited

Marshall, Megan. *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*.

Mariner Books, 2013.

### **In-Text Citation Examples Based on Source Above:**

Marshall notes that “Margaret left no record of these historic meetings in her letters or journals at the time” (113).

Everything changed in the spring after “Waldo wrote Margaret that he’d been invited to deliver a series of lectures in England” (Marshall 298).

Purdue OWL provides guidelines for In-Text citations using MLA style:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_in\\_text\\_citations\\_the\\_basics.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html)

## **Integrating MLA In-Text Citations**

Three basic sentence forms for integrating in-text citations:

- Use a signal phrase to introduce the quotation.
- Blend the quotation into your own prose.
- Introduce a quotation with an independent clause and a colon.

### **Quotation with signal phrase:**

Once she had spent an extended period of time in Italy, Margaret wrote, “Now I really live in Rome” (Marshall 310).

### **Blended quotation:**

Marshall says that afterward “Margaret would understand she had come late to the party at Bronson Alcott’s Temple School” (96).

### **Independent clause with a colon:**

Things did not go smoothly: “That summer, Elizabeth Peabody had a long-overdue falling out with Bronson Alcott” (Marshall 98).

## **In-Text Citations With and Without Authors**

The following is an example of an in-text citation **with a known author**:

“A company spokesman used the wheel-and-spokes concept that placed Martha at the center of the action” (Byron 200).

According to Byron, “A company spokesman used the wheel-and-spokes concept that placed Martha at the center of the action” (200).

The following is an example of an in-text citation **without a known author** (using the title within the citation instead):

“Her brand may be tarnished, but her empire grossed more than \$221 million last year” (“Meltdown for Ratings”).

Citing something not listed here? Follow this link to the Purdue OWL “MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format”:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_page\\_basic\\_for\\_mat.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_for_mat.html)

## **Citation Styles by Type of Publication**

When creating a citation, make sure to use 12pt Times New Roman and to double space entries.

What follows is a list of citation styles for the most common types of publications used in academic research.

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Creating a “hanging indent” in Microsoft Word accomplishes the same outcome. For instructions on how to do that, see Microsoft’s detailed instructions:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/create-a-hanging-indent-7bdfb86a-c714-41a8-ac7a-3782a91ccad5>

## **Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, or Periodical (from a database)**

### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Journal, Magazine, or Periodical."

*Journal/Magazine/Newspaper/Periodical* Title, Vol. Number, Issue Number, Publication Date, Page Numbers. *Database Name*, DOI or URL of journal, magazine, or periodical.

### **Example**

Boggs, Baron. "Argentina Bohème: Cuba and the Transatlantic Renaissance, 1890–1905." *Modernism/Modernity*, vol. 25, no. 1, Jan. 2020, pp. 37–41.  
*JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/mod.2016.1112>.

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## **Website**

### **Citation Structure**

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Web Page." *Website Publisher*, URL. Date of access.

### **Example**

Kessler, Amelia. "The Humane Treatment of Free-Range Chickens." *PETA: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*, <http://www.peta.org/chickens>. Accessed 21 Nov. 2021.

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## **Book by One Author**

### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.



## Example

Douglas, Angel. *Green Acres: Madam “C.J.” Walker and Others, Plenty, Many, Numerous, and Fruitful*. Conexus, 2017.

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## Book by Two Authors

### Citation Structure

Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

### Example

Katz, Michelle, and Lou Eller. *Where is Columbus?* Pearson Education, 2001.

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## Book by More Than Two Authors

### Citation Structure

Last Name, First Name, et al. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

### Example

Sharon, Rina, et al. *The Principles of Medicine*. Concord UP, 2018.

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## **Book by an Unknown Author**

### **Citation Structure**

*Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

### **Example**

*Grandal*. Pearson, 2006.

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## **Chapter or Work in an Anthology**

### **Citation Structure**

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s),  
Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

### **Example**

Mailer, Norman. "Superman Comes to the Supermarket." *Collected Essays of the 1960s*, edited  
by J. Michael Lennon, Library of America, 2018, pp. 3-37.

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## **Edited Work**

### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*, edited by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Publication  
Date.

### **Example**

Byron, Sabine. *Agent of Change: Coming to America*, edited by Elisabeth Gerald, Indiana UP, 2008.

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## **Translated Work**

### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Translated by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Publication Date.

### **Example**

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment*. Translated by Paul Revere, Vintage Books, 1994.

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## **Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, or Periodical (in print)**

### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, or Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

### **Example**

Kale, Elaine. “Public Announcement and the Civil War.” *American Institute of History*, 31 Mar. 2016, pp. 149–68.

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### **Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, or Periodical by Organization (in print)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Organization. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, or Periodical*,  
Publication Date, Page Numbers.

#### **Example**

UNESCO. “Languages: Today and Tomorrow.” *History Today*, 2008, pp. 234–50.

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### **Film or Movie**

#### **Citation Structure**

*Film Title*. Directed by First Name Last Name, Name of Film Studio or Distributor, Release  
Year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

#### **Example**

*The Shining*. Directed by Stanley Kubrick, performances by Jack Nicholson, Shelly Duval, and  
Scatman Crothers, Warner Brothers, 1980.

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### **A Painting, Sculpture, or Other Work of Art (online)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of the artwork*. Date of composition, Name of institution that houses the artwork, URL.

### Example

Kahlo, Frida. *The Broken Column*. 1944, Museo Delores Olmedo,  
<http://www.museodoloresolmedo.org.mx/english/coleccperm/gfrida.html>.

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### A Painting, Sculpture, or Other Work of Art (in print)

#### Citation Structure

Last Name, First Name. *Title of the artwork*. Date of composition, Name of institution that houses the artwork, City of institution. *Title of Book*, edition, by author First Name Last Name, Publisher, page number.

### Example

Kahlo, Frida. *The Broken Column*. 1944, Museo Delores Olmedo, Mexico City. Janson’s History of Art, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., by Penelope Davies, Pearson, p. 404.

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### Untitled Image on a Website

#### Citation Structure

[For untitled images, include a description of the image where the title would usually go].

Publication Date. URL. Date of access.

## Example

[David Bowie as Alter Ego Ziggy Stardust]. 1973. <https://www.rockarchive.com/artists/d/david-bowie>. Accessed 10 Jan. 2022.

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## **Dissertation or Thesis (in print)**

### Citation Structure

Last Name, First Name. *Dissertation Title*. Publication Date. Degree-Granting Institution, PhD dissertation.

### Example

Duis, Jared. *Acid/Base Chemistry and Related Organic Chemistry Conceptions of Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Students*. 2008. University of Northern Colorado, PhD dissertation.

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## **Dissertation or Thesis (in a database)**

### Citation Structure

Last Name, First Name. *Dissertation Title*. Publication Date. Degree-Granting Institution, PhD dissertation. *Database Name*.

### Example

Duis, Jared. *Acid/Base Chemistry and Related Organic Chemistry Conceptions of Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Students*. 2008. University of Northern Colorado, PhD dissertation. *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global*.

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### **Government Source (in print)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Name of Government Agency. *Title of Document*. Publisher, Publication Date.

#### **Example**

Centers for Disease Control. *How to Select, Wear, and Clean Your Mask*. Watercolor Publishing, 2020.

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### **Government Source (online)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink.

#### **Example**

Wilson, Jason. *How to select, wear, and clean your mask*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oct. 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

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### **Federal Statute (in print)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Location, Agency, Office. *Title of Statute*, Publication Date.

#### **Example**

United States, Congress, Civil Rights Division. *American with Disabilities Act*, 2015.

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### **Federal Statute (online)**

#### **Citation Structure**

Location, Government Agency, Division. *Title of Statute*, Publication Date. URL.

#### **Example**

United States, Congress, Civil Rights Division. *American with Disabilities Act*, 2015.

[https://www.ada.gov/2015\\_regs.htm](https://www.ada.gov/2015_regs.htm).

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### **Blog**

#### **Citation Structure**

Author or compiler name (if available). “Posting Title.” *Name of Site*, Name of

institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), URL. Date of access.

#### **Example**



Michelle Lando. "3 Ways to Create a Work/Life Balance as a New Grad." *Advice from a Twenty Something*, <https://advicefromatwentysomething.com/work-life-balance-new-grad/>. Accessed 10 Jan. 2022.

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