

MLA Format Handout
8th edition
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REMEMBER:

Your professors have the final say about how they want to see citations formatted!

No online or computerized citation tool is perfect. It is up to you to check the accuracy of your citations *before* submitting research papers or other class assignments.

If you need help, contact:

Learning Center

tutoring@northampton.edu

www.northampton.edu/learningcenter

NCC Libraries

askthelibrarian@northampton.edu

www.northampton.edu/library

MLA, or Modern Language Association format is the most common form of documentation used in academic writing. This handout is a brief summary of the new MLA Style, 8th Edition. This new edition of MLA provides a “universal set of guidelines” for citing sources across all format types. The guidelines state that, if given, these major elements should be included in the citation:

1. Author
2. Title of Source
3. Title of Container
4. Other Contributors
5. Version
6. Number
7. Publisher
8. Publication date
9. Location

This MLA handout is designed to provide some practical examples of the most commonly used citations. For more complete information, please see the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, or speak to a Learning Center writing tutor or a librarian.






Example:

Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/41403188.





BASIC RULES FOR CITATIONS

Works Cited

Authors

-  Authors’ names are inverted (last name, first name).
-  For works with more than one author, only the first author's name is inverted, followed by a comma. The rest of the authors are listed (first name last name) in the same order they appear on the title page.
-  For more than three authors, the first author’s name is followed by et al. (meaning “and others”).
-  If no author is given, alphabetize by the title of the piece, ignoring any initial *A*, *An*, or *The*.
-  Corporate authors should be listed as the author in the citation. Example: United States, Department of Labor.

Titles

-  Titles of works that are self-contained, like books, are italicized.
-  Titles of works, such as articles contained in other sources, are in double quotation marks.
-  If the title of the piece begins with a number, the title should be alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out. For example, *1914: The Coming of the First World War* should be alphabetized as if it began *Nineteen-Fourteen*. . .
-  Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc. but NOT *a*, *an*, *the*, conjunctions, or prepositions, unless they are the first word of the title or follow a colon in a title.

📖 Italicize titles of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, films, and Web sites.

Volume, issue, and page numbers

- 📖 For periodicals, include the volume and issue numbers with the abbreviations, vol. and no.
- 📖 Include the page number or numbers preceded by a p. for one page or pp. for a range of pages.

Publisher

- 📖 Include the name of the publisher in the citation.
- 📖 The city of publication is no longer required in the citation.
- 📖 Abbreviate university presses with U for university and P for press. Example: U of Pennsylvania P.

Location

- 📖 Online sources should include a location, the URL or the digital object identifier (doi); omit the http:// or https:// from the beginning of the URL. Some instructors will ask for no URL or a shortened URL. Follow your instructor's instructions.
- 📖 The digital object identifier, or doi, is preferable to the URL.
- 📖 Some databases, like JSTOR, provide stable URLs for citing their articles.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Your reader should be able to look at your in text citation and find the full citation in your works cited page. You should include an in-text citation whenever you use a quote or an idea from a text, even if you paraphrase or summarize the idea. The citation should be placed where there is a natural pause, i.e. the end of a sentence or phrase.

- 📖 Use the first term from the works cited citation in the in-text cite. Example: (Frey 54)
- 📖 Include the page number where you found the information or quote.
- 📖 In-text citations should be placed where a natural pause in the writing occurs, usually at the end of the sentence.
- 📖 When you repeat a source, you can use the page number only in the in-text citation after the first full cite.
- 📖 When a source has numbered paragraphs or sections and no page numbers, use those numbers in place of a page number with the abbreviation "par. or pars." or "sec. or secs." Example: (Chan, par. 1)
- 📖 When a source has no page numbers and no other numbers to refer to, use just the author's last name in the in-text citation. Example: (Smith)
- 📖 Abbreviate words that are commonly abbreviated for corporate authors. Example: (United States, Dept. of Labor) [Department is abbreviated]
- 📖 If the source has no author and is listed by the title on the works cited page, use an abbreviated title in the in-text citation, usually the first noun or noun phrase or the first word of the entry. Example: (*Reading* 15)

Sample Works Cited Page Entries

Books

General Format:

Author(s). *Title of Book*. Publisher. Year of Publication.

Rules for Books:

- Capitalize each word in the title of the book, but NOT a, an, the conjunctions or prepositions, unless they are the first word of the title or follow a colon in a title.
- For works found in anthologies, include the page numbers of where your source is located in the citation. Be sure to use the abbreviations “p.” or “pp.” before page numbers.

Handling Authors in a Books Reference Citation:

	Example
Book (single author)	<p>Author. <i>Title of Book</i>. Publisher, Year of Publication.</p> <p>Frye, Northrop. <i>Anatomy of Criticism</i>. Princeton UP, 1957.</p>
Book (two or more authors)	<p>If the book has two or more authors, list their names in the same order as they appear on the title page of the book. Reverse only the name of the first author.</p> <p>Author’s name and Author’s Name. <i>Title of Book</i>. Publisher, Year of Publication.</p> <p>Witte, Stephen P., and Lester Faigley. <i>Evaluating College Writing Programs</i>. Southern Illinois UP. 1983.</p>
Book (more than three authors)	<p>For more than three authors, the first author’s name is followed by et al. (meaning “and others”).</p> <p>Author, et al. <i>Title of Book</i>. Publisher, Year of Publication.</p> <p>Burdick, Anne, et al. <i>Digital Humanities</i>. MIT P, 2012.</p>
Part of a book	<p>Author(s). “Title of Article.” <i>Title of Collection</i>, edited by Name(s), volume. Publisher, Year, Pages.</p> <p>Frances, Carol. “Faculty Consulting.” <i>Encyclopedia of Education</i>, edited by James W. Guthrie, vol. 3, Macmillan Reference, 2003, pp. 772-75.</p>

Excerpting Services

The following “Excerpting Services” examples are used with print sources that reproduce portions of books or journal articles in a new source. Information on the original material is included with the excerpt.

Examples of excerpting services include the Gale literary criticism series, such as *Poetry Criticism*, *Short Story Criticism*, *Short Stories for Students*, and *Contemporary Literary Criticism*.

The abbreviation “Rpt.” as used below stands for “Reprinted.”

1. Citing criticism originally published in a book.

Author(s). *Title of Original Book*, year of publication of the original book. Rpt. in *Title of Excerpting Series*, edited by name of editor, volume number, name of publisher, year of publication, page numbers of excerpting series.

Example

Gardner, Stanley. *Infinity on the Anvil: A Critical Study of Blake’s Poetry*, 1954. Rpt. in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, edited by Joann Cerrito, vol. 37, Gale, 1993, pp. 35-38.

2. Citing criticism originally published in a periodical.

Author(s). “Title of Original Article.” *Title of Original Periodical*, volume number, issue number, publication date, page numbers. Rpt. in *Title of Excerpting Series*, edited by name of editor, volume number, name of publisher, year of publication, page numbers of excerpting series.

Example

Reed, John Q. “Artemus Ward on Reform and Reformers.” *The Educational Leader*, vol. 22, 1958, pp. 20-26. Rpt. in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, edited by Joann Cerrito, vol. 37, Gale, 1993, pp. 119-21.

3. Citing online criticism originally published in a periodical.

Author(s). “Title of Original Article.” *Title of Original Periodical*, volume number, publication date, page numbers. Rpt. in *Title of Excerpting Series*, edited by name of editor, volume number, name of publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database*, URL.

Example

Gargano, James W. “The Question of Poe’s Narrators.” *College English*, vol. 14, no. 3, Dec. 1963, pp. 177-81. Rpt. in *Short Stories for Students*. Edited by Kathleen Wilson and Marie Lazzari, vol. 4, Gale, 1998. *Literature Resource Center*, go.galegroup.com/ps/retrieve.do?sort=RELEVANCE&docType=Critical+essay%2C+Excerpt&tabID=T001&prodId=LitRC&searchId=R1&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&contentSegment=¤tPosition=1&searchResultsType=MultiTab&inPS=true&userGroupName=ncc_paul&docId=GALE%7CH1420017564&contentSet=GALE%7CH1420017564.

Journals, Magazines & Newspapers

Citations for journal, magazine or newspaper articles are cited the same, regardless of format. If the article comes from a web source, include the name of the database or website. When available, the citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged. MLA also recommends that the URL (without <http://> or <https://>) be included for electronic sources. However, this is up to the discretion of your instructor. ***If your instructor does not require URLs, do not include them.***

Articles in Scholarly Journals

Callan, Eamonn. "The Ethics of Assimilation." *Ethics*, vol. 115, no. 3, 2005, pp. 471-500. *JSTOR*, doi:10.1086/428460.

Articles in Magazines

"Why is Hands-Free Texting Dangerous?" *The Economist (Online)*, 24 June 2013, ProQuest, search.proquest.com/docview/1371478171?accountid=39096.

Articles in Newspapers

Healy, Michelle. "College Drinking Kills 1,400 a Year, Study Finds." *USA Today*, 10 Apr. 2002, p. D 7, *Newspaper Source*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nfh&AN=J0E302781587302&site=ehost-live.

Article in a Print Journal

Hannah, Daniel K. "The Private Life, the Public Stage: Henry James in Recent Fiction." *Journal of Modern Literature*, vol. 30, no. 3, 2007, pp. 70-94.

Article (Web Page) on a Web Site

Farkas, Meredith. "Tips for Being a Great Blogger (and a Good Person)." *Information Wants to Be Free*, 19 July 2011, meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/2011/07/19/tips-for-being-a-great-blogger-and-good-person/.

Web Site (Whole site)

Farkas, Meredith. *Information Wants to Be Free*, June 2015, meredith.wolfwater.com.

Articles from Library Databases

Most of the library databases will create an MLA citation for each article found. However, be sure to carefully check their suggested citation – they will often need some correcting! Include the URL for the database article unless it is not required by your instructor. If available, use the Permalink provided by the database.

Artemis Literary Sources

"Oates, Joyce Carol." *Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*. Merriam-Webster, 1995, *Literature Resource Center*,
go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CRN1480006755&v=2.1&u=ncc_paul&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=a72c57e8388a23000a544f382c9606da.

CQ Researcher

Clemmitt, M. "Health-Care Reform." *CQ Researcher*, vol. 20, no. 22, 11 June 2010, pp. 505-28. *CQ Researcher*,
library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/citenow.php?style=2&id=cqresrre2010061100.

EBSCOhost (including ERIC, PsycARTICLES, and SocIndex)

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color, and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. *EBSCOHost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

Facts on File

Issues and Controversies:

"Child Abuse." *Issues and Controversies on File*. Infobase Learning, 27 Jan. 2016, *FACTS on File*,
icof.infobaselearning.com/recordurl.aspx?ID=2097.

Today's Science:

Larson, Emma Perlmuth. "Nutty Physics: The Brazil Nut Effect." *Today's Science*. Infobase Learning, July 2007, *FACTS on File*, tsof.infobaselearning.com/main-articles/n/nutty-physics-the-brazile-nut-effect.aspx?q=%E2%80%9CA+reverse+reverse+revolution+%E2%80%9D.

World News Digest:

"Swine Flu: U.S. Begins Vaccinations." *World News Digest*. Infobase Learning, 15 Oct. 2009, *FACTS on File*,
wnd.infobaselearning.com/recordurl.aspx?wid=97333&nid=259787&umbtype=0.

Films on Demand

Rebels: America—The Story of Us. Films Media Group, 2010. *Films On Demand*, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=97333&xtid=43274.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Steinberg, Laurence, and Christine Caputo. "Parent-Child Relationship." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Children's Health: Infancy through Adolescence*, edited by Deirdre S. Blanchfield, 3rd ed., vol. 3, Gale, 2016, pp. 2046-51. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCX3630900601&v=2.1&u=ncc_paul&it=r&p=G VRL&sw=w&asid=de82e8f4b9af8b1483358eada0a17950.

JSTOR

Rozett, Martha Tuck. "The Comic Structures of Tragic Endings: The Suicide Scenes in Romeo and Juliet and Antony and Cleopatra." *Shakespeare Quarterly*, vol. 36, no. 2, 1985, pp. 152–64. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2871190.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context*Viewpoint Essay:*

Palmer, Kimberly. "Americans Are Becoming More Frugal." *At issue: Should the U.S. reduce its consumption?*, edited by David M. Haugen, Greenhaven Press, 2011. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&>windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&currPage=&commentary=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010710205&source=Bookmark&u=ncc_paul&jsid=23537f6973b141ac24585a028acf214d.

Journal Article:

Riley, Debbie. "Training Mental Health Professionals to Be Adoption Competent." *Policy & Practice*, vol. 67, no. 6, Dec. 2009, p. 33. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/AcademicJournalsDetailsPage/AcademicJournalsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&>windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Journals&limiter=&currPage=&commentary=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CA215117826&source=Bookmark&u=ncc_paul&jsid=87fc46d753707af0a382df4618b16a5a.

Newspaper Article:

"Following Terror Money Poses Challenges to System." *USA Today*, 16 Dec. 2015, sec. 04B.
Opposing Viewpoints in Context,
ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/NewsDetailsPage/NewsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=News&limiter=&currPage=&commentary=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CA437639842&source=Bookmark&u=ncc_paul&jsid=cbc54140e5092ce463cf1742c09d54ed.

ProQuest

Astor, Ron Avi, Rami Benbenishty, and Jose Nuñez Estrada. "School Violence and Theoretically Atypical Schools: The Principal's Centrality in Orchestrating Safe Schools." *American Educational Research Journal*, vol. 46, no. 2, 2009, pp. 423-61.
ProQuest, search.proquest.com/docview/200371029?accountid=39096.

Salem Press

Jones, Clara B. "Subtropical Forests." *Biomes and Ecosystems*. Edited by Robert Warren Howarth. Salem, 2013. *Salem Online*, online.salempress.com.

CITATION CHART

TYPE	SAMPLE CITATION
Advertisement	Giorgio Armani. Advertisement. <i>Vanity Fair</i> , Aug. 2009, p. 41.
Artwork	Picasso, Pablo. <i>Head of a Woman</i> . 1932, Museum of Modern Art, New York. www.moma.org/collection/works/81148 .
Audio Book	Wiesel, Elie. <i>Night</i> . Audio Bookshelf, 2000.
E-Book	Twain, Mark. <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> . American Publishing, 1881 <i>Google Books</i> , books.google.com/books?id=US_W7SHR3KkC&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22Adventures+of+Tom+Sawyer%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjErfKH-qXOAhXGMyYKHepFCnQQ6AEIHjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Adventures%20of%20Tom%20Sawyer%22&f=false .
E-Book (one part)	Van Doren, Carl. "Mark Twain." <i>The American Novel</i> , Macmillan, 1921. <i>Bartleby.com: Great Books Online</i> , www.bartleby.com/187/10.html .
Blog	Frank, Adam. "The Remarkable Inconsistency of Climate Denial." <i>13.7 Cosmos & Culture</i> , National Public Radio. 26 July 2016. Blog, www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2016/07/26/487457043/the-remarkable-inconsistency-of-climate-denial .
Comic Book	Jurgens, Dan, et al. <i>Justice League 2011</i> . No. 51, DC Comics, 2016.
Graph	"Reported Cases of Lyme Disease by Year, United States, 1995-2014." <i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> , 5 Nov. 2015. Graph, www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/graphs.html .

Interview	Clinton, Hillary. Interview by George Stephanopoulos. <i>This Week</i> . ABC. WNEP, New York. 7 June 2009.
Map	"Mapping the Zika Virus in Real Time," <i>American Geographical Society</i> , 20 July 2016. americangeo.org/map-of-the-week/mapping-zika-virus-real-time/ .
Photograph	Adams, Ansel. <i>Lower Yosemite Fall</i> . 1946. <i>The Portfolios of Ansel Adams</i> . Little, 1992. <i>Portfolio III, Plate 3</i> . Photograph.
Photograph, online	Gottlieb, William P. "Billie Holiday." <i>American Memory</i> , Lib. of Cong., 1947. Photograph, loc.gov/item/gottlieb.04211/ .
Podcast	Sanchez, Claudio. "Should Everyone Go to College?" <i>All Things Considered</i> . National Public Radio, 15 July 2009. Podcast, www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106636657 .
Video	Haggis, Paul, director. <i>Crash</i> . Lions Gate Films, 2004.
*Video Game	Boklev Alexey, et al., developers. <i>Gremlins, Inc</i> . Yukitama Creative Industries, 2016, PC.
Video, Netflix	Anderson, Wes, director. <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> , Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2014, <i>Netflix</i> .
Video You Tube	Obama, Barack. "A More Perfect Union." <i>YouTube</i> , 18. Mar. 2008, www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU .
Wiki	"How to Get a Job." <i>Wikihow</i> , www.wikihow.com/Get-a-Job .

* See below for proposed format for citing a video game in MLA 8th provided in W.W. Norton MLA Guide at http://www.norton.com/college/english/write/writesite/research/Documentation_PDFs/DOC_GUIDELINES_MLA_2016.pdf

Proposed format: Last Name, First Name, role. *Title of Game*. Distributor, Date of release, Gaming System or Platform.

Formatting Your Paper

- ✓ **Margins:** One-inch on the top, bottom, and sides of each page.
- ✓ **Page numbering:** Use your word processor to create a header that includes your last name and the page number in the upper right hand corner of the page, one half inch from the top of the page. Every page has this header.
- ✓ **Title page:** MLA does not require a title page; instead, the first page of the paper should begin with four lines, double-spaced, indicating: your name, name of the course instructor, name of the course, and the date.
- ✓ **Spacing:** Double-space every line (including long quotations and the citations on the Works Cited page.)
- ✓ **Indenting:** Indent the first line of every paragraph five spaces or one tab. Indent long quotations ten spaces or two tabs.
- ✓ **Font and Typeface:** Use a 12-point font in Times New Roman.

In this example from the first page of an MLA-style paper, the student's name is Dina Flower, her instructor is Professor Vole, and the course is English 101:

Flower 1

Dina Flower

Professor Vole

English 101, section 07

October 14, 2016

The Fishing Creek Confederacy

In 1846 the military occupation of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, began. The cause of this occupation was stated as a Copperhead movement in the area ("Copperheads" 421). Insurgents "had erected a fort...they had field-pieces or cannon, and ...refugees from Canada and deserters from other sections had joined them in considerable forces" (Freeze 401). The formation of this movement was a significant stage in Columbia County history.

Creating the Works Cited Page

- ✓ Continue the page numbering sequence from the main body of your paper.
- ✓ Center the words “Works Cited” one inch from the top of the page.
- ✓ Continue double-spacing.
- ✓ If the citation takes up more than one line of the page, indent the remaining line(s) one-half inch from the left margin.
- ✓ Reverse the name of the author: list the author’s last name followed by a comma and the author’s first name.
- ✓ Alphabetize the works you cite by the last name of the author. If there is no author, alphabetize by the first word in the title of the work other than *A*, *An* or *The*.

An MLA-style works cited page looks like this:

8 1/2"

1"

Works Cited

Flower 9
1/2"

1/2" hanging indent

All entries are double-spaced.

Butler, Darrell L., and Martin Sellbom. "Barriers to Adopting Technology for Teaching and Learning." *Educause Quarterly*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2002, pp. 22-28. *Educause*, educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0223.pdf.

"Copperheads." *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. 1960.

Callan, Eamonn. "The Ethics of Assimilation." *Ethics*, vol. 115, no. 3, 2005, pp. 471–500. *JSTOR*, doi:10.1086/428460.

Freeze, John G. *A History of Columbia County, Pennsylvania*. Elwell and Bittenbender, 1883.

Weintraub, Arlene and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year Plan for Nuclear Waste." *Business Week*, 6 May 2002, pp. 94-96. *EBSCOhost*, libprox.northampton.edu:/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bsh&AN=6566717&site=ehost-live.