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MLA (7th edition) Citation Style Guidelines
NAIT Library

Citation styles are standardized systems for crediting and citing sources you've used for your research paper or assignment. Your program or degree will require you to use a specific citation style. The Modern Language Association (MLA) is one of many different citation styles. Other style options include APA (American Psychological Association), CSE (Counsel of Science Editors) and Vancouver.

You must give credit to every source that you use in your research paper. Brief citations included in the text of your paper are called “in-text” citations (or “parenthetical” citations because they are in parentheses, or brackets); MLA in-text citations are usually made up of the author and page number(s) of the source cited. Full citations are always included in the MLA Works Cited list at the end of your paper; full citations include all the citation elements (for example a book citation includes the author, title, edition, place, publisher and date). Each in-text citation must appear in the Works Cited list, and each entry in the Works Cited list must come from an in-text citation.

These guidelines will help you to cite your research sources according to the MLA style. Included are examples of both in-text citations and Works Cited citations.

These guidelines are based on the 7th edition (2009) of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

Important: Always ask your instructor what citation style is required for your assignment.

OVERVIEW OF RECENT MLA CHANGES

The 7th edition of the MLA Handbook includes five major changes that affect citing your sources:

1. Titles are italicized, not underlined.
2. Always include a medium of publication (print, web, MP3 file, etc).
3. URLs are no longer required for electronic resources unless your instructor requires it or the resource is difficult to locate.
4. Do not include the vendor name or name of library for resources from library subscription databases.
5. All journal articles require a volume number and an issue number.
PRINT SOURCES

Book

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s) (if editor, include “ed.” after name). *Book Title*. Edition. City of Publication:

Publisher, Year. Medium.

Works Cited citation examples - Book

In MLA style, only the first author or editor’s name is inverted (the last name comes first, followed by the full first name). Use full names for each author; if an author’s name is abbreviated in the source, transcribe as found. Capitalize the important words in the title; if there is no author or editor, begin the citation with the title. Do not include state/province or country after city of publication.

One Author:


One Editor:


Multiple Authors:


Multiple Editors:


No Author or Editor:


In-text citation examples - Book

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If your paper cites more than one source by the same author, clarify which source you refer to by using a few words of the title, rather than the year of publication. If a source has no author or editor, use a few words of the title and the page number(s); italicize the title of the book’s title.
One Author:

Smyth found that "insert quote here" (164-70).
OR:
…paraphrase of author’s points (Smyth 164-70).

Two Authors (use the word “and” between the authors’ names, not “&”):

Smyth and Hanson have demonstrated this point (210-15).
OR:
…text here (Smyth and Hanson 210-15).

Three Authors:

…text here (Smyth, Hanson, and Trade 282).

Four or more Authors:

…text here (Smyth et al. 125)
OR:
Smyth et al. demonstrate that… (125)

No Author or Editor:

… according to the British map (New Concise World Atlas 15).

One of two or more sources by the same Author:

… according to William Faulkner, "direct quote" (Mansion 157).
OR:
… text here (Faulkner, Sanctuary 48).
OR:
… Faulkner’s style. In Pylon, the main character says, “direct quote” (22).
**Article or Book Chapter in Edited Book or Anthology**

You cite an article, book chapter, or case study found in a source in both the Works Cited and in an in-text citation – do not just cite the individual article/chapter/case study in an in-text citation and then the work-as-a-whole in the Works Cited.

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s) or editor(s) of the chapter or entry or case study. “Title of the Chapter or Article.” *Book Title*. Ed. First name Last name and First name Last name of editor(s). City of Publication: Publisher, year of publication. Page numbers of the chapter or entry. Medium.

**Works Cited citation examples – Article or Chapter in a Book**

In MLA style, only the first author’s or editor’s name is inverted (the last name comes first); use the full first name if available. Capitalize the important words in the title; if there is no author or editor, begin the citation with the title of the article or chapter. Do not include state/province or country after city of publication.

**Entry in an Anthology** (where Hugh LaFollette is the editor of the book):


**In-text citation examples – Article or Chapter in a Book**

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name, the page number (for quotes) and, when citing more than one resource by the same author, or a resource with no listed author/editor, include the title of the article/chapter, either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. When citing a secondary source (for example if you’re quoting from a book that is quoting directly from a primary source that you don’t have), include “qtd. in” in the in-text citation.

**One Author in a Secondary Source:**

Warren argued that … (qtd. in LaFollette 130).

OR:

Pederson’s statement that “insert quote here” (qtd. in Ness 65) still holds true today.
Journal Article

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Journal Name Volume Number.Issue Number (Year): page number(s). Medium.

Works Cited citation examples – Journal Article

In MLA style, each author’s name should be in full. If abbreviated in resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. Capitalize the important words in a title, and always include the volume and issue numbers, when available. If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the journal article. In MLA style, no distinction is made between journals paginated by volume (page numbers continue throughout the year) and paginated by issue (each issue begins with page 1).

Two or more Authors:


Four or more Authors:


No Author:


In-text citation examples – Journal Article

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If your paper cites more than one source by the same author, clarify which source you refer to by using a few words of the title, either in the text of the paper or in parentheses. If a source has no author or editor, use a few words of the title and the page number(s), all in parentheses; put the title of the article in quotation marks.

Two Authors:

Smyth and Hanson reported “insert quote here” (59).

OR:

… as reported in a recent study (Smyth and Hanson 59).

No Author:

… as was reported in the final study (“Order in the Oil Sands” 17).

More than one resource by the same Author:

… as Lyttle concluded (“Effectiveness of Humor” 17).
Newspaper Article

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Newspaper Title Day Month Year, edition: page number(s) or section letter(s). Medium.

Works Cited citation examples – Newspaper article
In MLA style, the author’s name should be in full; if abbreviated in the resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the newspaper article. Capitalize the important words in the title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.). Identify the edition if more than one is available for that date (such as “early”, “late”, “final”). Note that newspapers often use pagination such as “A1”, “B4”, and so on.

One Author:


No Author:


In-text citation examples – Newspaper article
MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name, a shortened title if clarification of which resource is referenced is needed, and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If a source has no author or editor, use a few words of the article’s title and the page number(s), all in parentheses; use quotation marks around the article title.

One Author:

... as reported in the Edmonton Journal (Kleiss A1).
OR:
Kleiss discounted the statistics (A3).

No Author:

... as reported in the Edmonton Journal (“Mandel Received” B4).

More than one resource by the same Author:

As Kleis reported in the Edmonton Journal... (“Changes” D2).
OR:
As reported in the Edmonton Journal... (Kleis, “Changes” D2).
Videos/DVDs

Citation elements required and general format:

*Title of Film.* Dir. Director(s). Perf. Performer(s). Distributer or Production Company, Year of Release. Medium.

**Works Cited citation example – Video/DVD**

In MLA style, list the title of the film first, followed by the director and any relevant performers. Use full names when possible. Capitalize the important words in the title. Mediums include DVD or VHS, or simply Film if it is still in theatres. Note the difference between Production Company (used when referencing a film that is still in theatres) and Distributer (used when referencing a DVD or VHS).

**No Director:**

_Beyond Teat Dipping and Dry Cow Therapy._ Ohio State University Extension, 1987. VHS.

**Multiple Directors:**

_Shark Week: 20th Anniversary Collection._ Dir. Jeff Kurr, Gavin Maxwell, Joe DiMaggio. Discovery Channel, 2005. DVD.

**In-text citation examples – Video/DVD**

In MLA style, as long as you clearly indicate which material you are paraphrasing or quoting from the video or DVD, you do not need to have a parenthetical citation. You may however, choose to use one.

In *Beyond Teat Dipping*, the argument was raised that …

OR:

Kurr, Maxwell, and DiMaggio indicated that sharks…

OR:

It was proven that sharks are actually … (Kurr, Maxwell and DiMaggio)
ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Online Journal Article from Library Database

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Periodical Title Volume Number.Issue Number (Year): page number(s). Database Name. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples - Journal Article from a Library Database

In MLA style, each author’s name should be in full. If abbreviated in resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the journal article. Capitalize the important words in a title, and always include the volume and issue numbers, when available. In MLA style, no distinction is made between journals paginated by volume (page numbers continue throughout the year) and paginated by issue (each issue begins with page 1). Please also note that in MLA style, you are not required to include DOIs – digital object identifiers, used to provide a persistent, unique link to the location of the resource on the Internet – in your citations.

One Author:


In-text citation examples - Journal Article from a Library Database

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If your paper cites more than one source by the same author, clarify which source you refer to by using a few words of the title, rather than the year of publication. If a source has no author, use a few words of the title and the page number(s), all in parentheses; put the title of the article in quotation marks.

One Author:

… and the conclusion is supported by Dean (18).
OR:
… the author concludes that “insert quote here” (Dean 18).
OR
… as was stated in some of Dean’s more recent articles (“Materials” 4).
Online Magazine Article from Library Database

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s). "Title of Article." Magazine Title Day Month Year: page number(s). Database Name. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – Magazine Article from a Database
In MLA style, each author’s name should be in full. If abbreviated in resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. Capitalize the important words in a title; if the author is unknown, begin the citation with the title. Do not include volume and issue for magazine articles. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).

One Author:


In-text citation examples - Magazine Article from a Database
MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If your paper cites more than one source by the same author, or the article has no author, clarify which source you refer to by using a shortened version of the title.

One Author:

… as Campbell successfully debated the topic (37).

OR:

A recent article debated the topic once again (Campbell 38).

OR:

… as was stated in one of Campbell’s later articles (“Can They” 36).
Online Newspaper Article from Library Database

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Newspaper Title Day Month Year, edition: page number(s) or section letter(s). Database Name. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – Online Newspaper Article from a Database
In MLA style, the author’s name should be in full; if abbreviated in the resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the newspaper article. Capitalize the important words in the title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.). Identify the edition if more than one is available for that date (such as “early”, “late”, “final”). Note that newspapers often use pagination such as “A1”, “B4”, and so on.

One Author:


In-text citation examples – Online Newspaper Article from a Database
MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name, a shortened title if clarification of which resource is referenced is needed, and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses.

One Author:

… as Blackwell noted regarding the U.S. government's concerns (A5).
OR:
… as the author concluded (Blackwell A5).
OR:
… as Blackwell noted in his first article on the subject (“Canada Blamed” A5).
Electronic Book (eBook) from Library Database

Some examples of eBooks from library databases include CRCnetBASE, AccessEngineering, Knovel, Safari, Gale Virtual Reference Library, ebrary, Oxford Reference Online, and Referex.

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s) (if editor, include ed. after name). Book Title. Edition. City of Publication:

Publisher, Year. Database Name. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – eBook from a Database

In MLA style, the author’s name should be in full; if abbreviated in the resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. If there is no author or editor, begin the citation with the title of the eBook. Capitalize the important words in the title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).

Two or more Editors:


Web. 2 July 2009.

In-text citation examples – eBook from a Database

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If your paper cites more than one source by the same author, clarify which source you refer to by using a few words of the title. If a source has no author or editor, use a few words of the title and the page number(s), all in parentheses; italicize the title of the book’s title.

Two Editors:

Kreithl and Goswami illustrated that …(5).

OR:

… as the researchers demonstrated last year (Kreith and Goswami 5).

OR:

as the researchers demonstrated in their first book on the subject (Kreith and Goswami, “Infographics” 8).
Webpage or Document from a Website

If you are not able to find all of the information identified in the general format, include all that is available from the source.

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s) or Editor(s). “Title of Webpage/Document/Section.” Title of Website. Sponsor or Publisher of the website, date of publication or last update. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – Webpage or Document from a Website

In MLA style, the author’s name should be in full; if abbreviated in the resource, transcribe as found. Only the first author’s name is inverted. If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the webpage. Capitalize the important words in the title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.). MLA style no longer requires URLs, unless the resource is difficult to locate or your instructor specifically asks for them. Use “n.d.” if there is no date of publication/update listed.

**Single web page, one Author:**


**Single web page, URL required:**


<http://animals.howstuffworks.com/pets/dogs-perceive-time.htm>

**Single web page, no Author or date** (use n.d.):


**Entire web site, no Author:**


Web. 2 July 2011.

In-text citation examples – Webpage or Document from a Website

MLA in-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If page number is not available but paragraphs or sections are numbered in the source, include paragraph or section number and place a comma after the author’s name. If there is no page number, paragraph number or section number, cite the webpage or document in its entirety by stating the author in the text. Include the title of the webpage or document if there is no author.
One Author:

… as McGrath stated (par. 3).  
OR: 
… as McGrath stated (sec. 3).  
OR: 
… as McGrath stated (3).

No Author, no page/paragraph/section numbers:

… was fully explained (“Democracy”).  
OR: 
The “Democracy” definition indicated that …

No Author, page number is available:

… the study indicated that “insert quote here” (“How Vaccines Work” 5).  
OR: 
“How Vaccines Work” argued that “insert quote here” (5).
Blog Entry

If you are not able to find all of the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation elements required and general format:

Author(s) of the blog entry. “Title of Blog Entry.” Title of the Blog. Sponsor of Publisher of the blog, date of blog entry. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – Blog Entry
In MLA style, the blogger’s name should be in full; if abbreviated in source, transcribe as found. Only the first blogger’s name is inverted (the last name comes first). If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the blog entry. Capitalize the important words in the webpage/document title and the website title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.). MLA style no longer requires URLs, unless the resource is difficult to locate or your instructor specifically asks for them.

One Author, URL required:


Two Authors, no sponsor or publisher (use N.p.):


No Author, no date (use n.d.):


In-text citation examples – Blog Entry
In-text citations include the author’s last name and page/section/paragraph numbers, if available. If there is no author, use the title of the blog post instead. If you are citing more than one work by the same author, use the title of the blog post to clarify which resource you are using.

One Author, page/paragraph/section numbers available:

… as Morris stated (par. 3).
OR:
… as Morris stated (sec. 3).
OR:
… as Morris stated (3).
No Author, no page/paragraph/section numbers:

… was fully explained ("Danger of Safety").
OR:
The “Danger of Safety” blog indicated that …
Podcast

If you are not able to find all of the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Author(s), Host(s), or Producer(s) of the podcast. “Title of Podcast.” Title of Program.

Sponsor or publisher of the website, date of podcast. Medium, Day Month Year of access.

Works Cited citation examples – Podcast

In MLA style, the author's, host's, or producer's name should be in full; if abbreviated in source, transcribe as found. Only the first author/host/producer's name is inverted (the last name comes first). If there is no author/host/producer, begin the citation with the title of the podcast episode. Capitalize the important words in the webpage/document title and the website title.Abbreviate months in a standardized way: (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.). MLA style no longer requires URLs, unless the resource is difficult to locate or your instructor specifically asks for them.

One Author, Host or Producer, URL required:


No Author, Host or Producer (begin with title):


No Sponsor or Publisher (use N.p.)"


No date (use n.d.):


In-text citation examples – Podcast

In MLA style, as long as you clearly indicate when paraphrasing or quoting in your paper which podcast you are referring to, you do not need to have a parenthetical citation. However, you may still choose to include the author/host/producer's last name in parenthesis.
One Author, Host or Producer:

… according to the discussion in Shaw’s podcast.
OR:
According to a recent debate … (Shaw).
OR:
In the “Dumb Rules” podcast, we learn that…
Streaming Video

Streaming videos are delivered through the web: for example, those available on YouTube. Some streaming videos were first published in another medium. Keep in mind that if the video you are citing was first published in another medium, such as DVD, you should include the original Distributor and date of publication.

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Title of Film. Dir. Director(s). Perf. Performer(s). Distributer or Production Company, Year of Release. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>

Works Cited citation examples – Streaming Video

In MLA style, list the title of the film first, followed by the director and any relevant performers. If you have emphasized a particular individual in your paper, you may begin the citation with their name. Use full names when possible. Capitalize the important words in the title. Abbreviate months in a standardized way (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).

No Director:


Emphasis on one Director:


No Producer/Distributor or Director:


Video republished online:


In-text citation examples – Streaming Video

In MLA style, as long as you clearly indicate which material you are paraphrasing or quoting from the streaming video, you do not need to have a parenthetical citation. You may however, choose to use one.

Producer or Director:

…as reported in Paterson’s video.
OR:
…as described in the T-Rex video.
OR:
… as I learned from the video (*Plagiarism*).
Government of Canada – Departments

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Works Cited citation examples – Government of Canada - Departments
In MLA style, Canada is followed by the government department name and then the title of publication. Capitalize the important words in the title. If the name of the document's author is known, it may begin the citation; you may also choose to list the government department name first, then the title, and then By, Ed., Comp., followed by the author's non-inverted name.

Department only, no Author:

Author first, URL required:

Department first:

In-text citation examples – Government of Canada - Departments
In-text citations include the country and government department name, as well as page/section/paragraph numbers (if available) either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. To avoid breaking up the flow of the paper with a long parenthetical citation, you are encouraged to mention the country and government department name in the text of your paper instead.

Department:
…as reported by the Canadian Department of Finance.
OR:
…as described in the government report (Canada, Dept. of Finance).
Government of Canada – Reports

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Government Department. Title of Report: Subtitle of Report. Place: Publisher, Date.

Medium. Date of Access. URL if required.

Works Cited citation examples – Government of Canada - Reports

In MLA style, the government department name comes first followed by title of the report in italics. Capitalize the important words in the title. URLs are not necessary unless the report is difficult to locate, or are required by your instructor.

Government Department, URL required:


Government Department, Branch, Service, or Office:


In-text citation examples – Government of Canada - Reports

In-text citations include the government department name either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If citing more than one report by the same department, include a shortened version of the title either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses.

Government Department:

…as reported by Industry Canada. OR:
…as described by the Sustainable Development Office in the recent government report (Environment Canada). OR:
… as Industry Canada reported (State of Retail). OR:
… as Industry Canada demonstrated in their most recent State of Retail report.
Government of Canada – Statistics Canada

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Statistics Canada. Title of Statistical Table: Subtitle of Statistical Table. Place: Publisher, Date. Medium. Date of Access. URL if required.

Works Cited citation examples – Government of Canada - Statistics Canada

In MLA style, the government department name comes first followed by title of the report in italics. Capitalize the important words in the title. URLs are not necessary unless the data is difficult to locate, or are required by your instructor.

Government Department:


Government Department, with URL:


In-text citation examples – Government of Canada - Statistics Canada

In-text citations include the government department name either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If citing more than one data set by the same department, include a shortened version of the title either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses.

Government Department:

...as reported by Statistics Canada.
OR:
...as recorded in the statistical table (Statistics Canada).
OR:
... as Statistics Canada reported (2006 Community Profiles).
OR:
... as was reported in 2006 Community Profiles (Statistics Canada).
Provincial Government Reports

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Citation information required and general format:

Province. Ministry, Department or Agency. (Year of publication). Title: Subtitle.

Retrieved from URL

Works Cited citation examples – Provincial Government Reports
In MLA style, the province and government ministry or agency name come first followed by title of the report in italics. Capitalize the important words in the title. URLs are not necessary unless the report is difficult to locate, or are required by your instructor.

Provincial Government Ministry:


2011.

Provincial Government Agency:


In-text citation examples – Provincial Government Reports
In-text citations include the province and government ministry or agency name either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. If citing more than one data set by the same department, include a shortened version of the title either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses.

Provincial Government Agency or Ministry:

...as reported by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology.
OR:
...as announced by the ministry in the press release (Alberta, Municipal Affairs).
OR:
...as announced by Alberta Municipal Affairs (High-Intensity).