YOUR GUIDE

TO

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION:

M L A CITATION STYLE


Please Note:

This handout is based on the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, 2016.

While Library staff have made every effort to avoid errors in this document, students are strongly encouraged to verify this information with the MLA Handbook or with the course professor.

The Library, Durham College & UOIT

Revised July 2017
Partial List of Changes in the *MLA Handbook, 8th Edition*:

For more detailed information, see the *MLA Handbook, 8th edition* (2016), available in the Library, call number LB2369 .M53 2016. The page numbers at the end of each entry refer back to related pages in the *MLA Handbook*.

- Introduction of ‘core elements’ list that can be applied to any type of resource, making citing more flexible for different source types (*MLA Handbook* 3-4, 20)

- Concept of ‘containers’ e.g. a journal article from a Library database is thought of as an article contained within a journal which is itself contained within the larger database (*MLA Handbook* 30-36)

- No longer necessary to include ‘Print’ or ‘Web’ designation

- Omit place of publication for most resources (*MLA Handbook* 51)

- Three or more authors or editors are indicated using ‘et al’, meaning ‘and others’ (*MLA Handbook* 22-23)

- Spell out in full words like ‘editor’ or ‘translator’ rather than using an abbreviation (*MLA Handbook* 23)

- May use pseudonyms for authors’ names in the case of blog posts and online names (*MLA Handbook* 24)

- Use ‘vol.’ and ‘no.’ to indicate a journal’s volume and issue numbers (*MLA Handbook* 39-40)

- Include a DOI or permanent link to an online article if possible, omitting the ‘http://’ if including a URL (*MLA Handbook* 48, 110)

- Inclusion of URLs in the Works Cited list is recommended unless your professor indicates otherwise (*MLA Handbook* 48, 110)

- Including an access date for online resources is not absolutely required, but can be very helpful as resources may change over time (*MLA Handbook* 53)

- No longer use placeholders such as ‘n.d.’ for missing information. If the missing facts can be found in a reliable source elsewhere, indicate that in the proper location in the citation in square brackets. Otherwise, simply omit the information. (*MLA Handbook* 111)

- For titles of periodicals (newspapers, magazines, journals) that begin with *A, An, The*, etc., that element is now treated as part of the periodical title and is italicized and capitalized (e.g. *The Georgia Review*) (*MLA Handbook* 30,32)
Avoiding Plagiarism

When writing a research paper, lab report or any other type of academic assignment, you will likely use resources such as books, articles and websites written by other people to support your argument. However, when using someone else’s information, you must indicate where that information came from (credit must be given where credit is due). If you fail to acknowledge your sources, you are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may lead to lost marks or a failing grade.

There are numerous formats for providing credit (also known as bibliographic citation) to other sources within your research paper. This handout will provide a brief summary of the MLA (Modern Language Association) bibliographic style guidelines as outlined in the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, 2016, found in the Library at LB 2369 .M53 2016 in the reference and circulation sections.

PLEASEx CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY DIFFER FROM THOSE OUTLINED BY THE MLA.

When to cite

It is important to understand when to cite to avoid plagiarism. A source must be cited or acknowledged within your paper when you:

- quote material verbatim (word for word)
- reword or paraphrase information
- include statistics or findings from a survey or study
- incorporate facts, ideas or opinions that are not common knowledge

Listed below are a few examples to illustrate when citations are required. MLA generally uses the author’s surname and page number to cite information within the body of the essay. Full details about your sources appear at the end of the essay in the Works Cited section.

Assume that you have been given an assignment on business expansion. You decide to use an article by Aleksandra Sagan, called “Tim Hortons is Looking to Extend Reign into Spain” which appeared in the Toronto Star on August 3rd, 2017, on pages B1 and B6.

Here a paragraph taken directly from the above-mentioned article:

They were down 0.8 per cent from a year ago, driven by falling sales in Canada of baked good and lunch items, a sign that the Tim Hortons brand may be losing its appeal in the country where it was made famous.

Citation is required if you were to use a direct quote from this source in your paper, as in the example below. The author’s last name and the page number of the article appear directly after the quote.

DesiXte the move to expand into Spain, Tim Horton’s sales “were down 0.8 per cent from a year ago, driven by falling sales in Canada” (Sagan B6).

Paraphrasing or rewording the passage does not make it your own. Acknowledgement or citing is still
required, as in the following example:

Despite the move to expand into Spain, Tim Horton’s sales in Canada dropped slightly over the last twelve months (Sagan B6).

Similarly, when you summarize content for your readers of a book, article, website, etc., you must still cite your source.

Note: it is not necessary to cite information that is widely known by your audience – for example: “milk is a good source of calcium” or “water freezes at zero degrees Celsius”.

What to cite

Although the previous examples were taken from a newspaper article, proper citation applies to all types of formats (print or electronic) including books, journals, newspapers, works by associations or corporations, encyclopedias, dictionaries, technical reports, videos, websites, blogs, interviews, etc.

With so much concern over plagiarism, students often complain that their essays will simply be a string of cited lines and paragraphs. However, it is how you interpret the information from various sources and bring it together, that is uniquely yours. No other individual will come up with quite the same combination.

If you are in doubt if a citation is required, it is usually better to cite than not.

The examples listed in the following pages of this document are guidelines only. For complete information and an exhaustive list of examples please consult the *MLA Handbook, 8th edition*, 2016, found in the Library at LB 2369 .M53 2016 in both the reference and circulation sections.

The MLA Style Center (style.mla.org) lists additional information and examples, sample papers and a practice template of core elements.


**PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY DIFFER FROM THOSE OUTLINED BY THE MLA.**
Modern Language Association (MLA) Style: In-text Citations and Works Cited List

Information from other sources must be acknowledged within the body of the text (in-text or parenthetical citations) and at the end of the paper (in a Works Cited list). It is important that all references cited within the text appear in the Works Cited list, and vice versa.

In-Text or Parenthetical Citations [MLA Handbook 116-126]

In the body of your essay, acknowledge your cited material with the author’s name (or shortened title if there is no author) and the page number (if available) where the information was found. This will allow the reader to find the complete source listed in your Works Cited list at the end of your paper. The Works Cited List (also known as a bibliography) will provide enough information to identify or locate each source.

The surname of the author (or shortened title if there is no author) and the page reference are inserted in the text at the appropriate point, usually in a natural pause in the sentence as close as possible to the cited information (e.g. at a comma, after a quotation, or at the end of the sentence). For example:

Most new research builds on past work done by others (Gibaldi 142).

If the author’s name is already mentioned in the text, only the page number is required in the citation, as in the example below:

Gibaldi notes that most new research builds on past work done by others (142).

Either format is acceptable, although the second example may be easier to read as it is less fragmented. In the majority of the examples listed in the following sections, the in-text citations are shown as if the author’s name was not used in the sentence.

If you wish to include two or more works in a single reference, separate them using semi-colons. If multiple pages are being referred to, indicate the range in the brackets [MLA Handbook 126], as in the example below:

(Sly and Mason 105-6; Wilson 456)

Where there is no pagination or when referring to the overall contents of a work, it is preferable to include the author in the text of the essay and not in a parenthetical reference if possible.

Using Quotations [MLA Handbook 75-77]

If you quote from or refer to material where the author and the page number are known, include the surname and the page number in parentheses after the relevant section. If your quote is less than five lines integrate it into the body of your paper with the proper use of quotation marks.

Laughter is a gift and “the most significant characteristic of the human mind” (deBono 55).
If your quote is five lines or longer make sure that it stands out within the body of your paper. Indent the quotation 2.5 cm. from the left margin and double-space it. Note that the page reference is outside of the punctuation.

Especially if you are pressed for time, it is so easy to fall into the trap of passing off another’s work as your own. You need to remember that:

Plagiarism is theft. Plagiarism is copying. Plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge borrowed material. Plagiarism is illegal, immoral and punishable (usually by failure, in some colleges by expulsion and in the business world by legal action). It is not plagiarism to present other people’s ideas in your essay; it is plagiarism to present other people’s ideas as your own. (Coggins 32)

Repeated Use of Sources [MLA Handbook 124-126]

If you cite a work more than once within a single paragraph, one after the other, you may give a single in-text reference after the last instance in the paragraph. If applicable, include multiple page numbers as part of the citation.

Especially if you are pressed for time, it is so easy to fall into the trap of passing off another’s work as your own. You need to remember “plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge borrowed material”. It is fine to use other people’s ideas in your work, but it is “plagiarism to present other people’s ideas as your own” (Coggins 30, 32).

If multiple page numbers are used, you could also format the text so that the first in-text reference includes the author’s last name and page number, and subsequent uses of that same work in the paragraph just list the page number (only if there are no other authors listed in between).

Remember that “plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge borrowed material” (Coggins 30).

Writing research papers usually involves looking at other authors’ works and summarizing for your own purpose. It is fine to use other people’s ideas in your work, but it is “plagiarism to present other people’s ideas as your own” (32).

Another option is to refer to the work in the body of the text and just list page numbers throughout the paragraph.

According to the study by Coggins, plagiarism is theft (30). Presenting someone else’s ideas as your own is wrong (32).
Works Cited List and Core Elements [MLA Handbook 20, 111-116]

A sample Works Cited list, using the proper spacing and format, has been included at the end of this resource.

The list of works cited should start on a new page, continuing the page numbers of the text (e.g. if the text of your paper ends on page 8, the works cited list begins on page 9). The words Works Cited should be centered at the top of the page. All entries should be double-spaced. MLA uses a hanging-indent format – the first line of each entry is flush left and subsequent lines are indented 5-7 spaces or one tab. Entries should be arranged alphabetically by author’s surname or name of a corporate body. If there is no author, alphabetize the entry in the list by its title (ignoring an initial A, An or The).

To create the Works Cited entries, MLA has created a set of universal guidelines based on the facts common to most publication forms (title, author, etc.). When creating a citation, rather than focus on the format or medium of the resource being used, the writer would examine the resource being used and pull out the necessary information or core elements following the general guidelines. The core elements (in bold) and a number of examples are listed in the table below:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Author. e.g. personal author(s), editor(s), corporate author, director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Title of source. e.g. book title, article title, chapter title, title of TV episode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Title of container, e.g. book title, journal/magazine/newspaper title, title of TV series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other contributors, e.g. translators, performers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Version, e.g. edition, abridged/unabridged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number, e.g. volume and issue numbers, season and episode numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Publisher, e.g. publisher, university press, organization, government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Publication date, e.g. use the most pertinent date; full dates in this format: 8 Sept. 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Location. e.g. page number(s), web address, DOI, stable URL, time on a recording</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each core element is followed by the punctuation mark as shown in bold in the chart, unless it is the final element in the citation which should end with a period. If an element is not relevant to the work being documented, then it is omitted. For example, if citing an entire book then you might just use elements 1, 2, 7 and 8 (or author, title of source, publisher and publication date).

The idea of container, core element #3, is new to the 8th edition. When the source being documented is part of a larger resource, the larger resource is thought of as the container. For example:

- Chapter of a book = the book is the container
- Article = the larger journal/magazine/newspaper is the container
- Section of a website = larger website is the container
- Television episode watched on Netflix = Netflix is the container

It is possible to have more than one container e.g. an article in a journal that is accessed through a database of journals, such as EBSCOhost’s Academic Search Premier or Scholars Portal. In this case, add core elements #3-9 at the end of the entry [MLA Handbook 31].

Do not include ‘Print’ or ‘Web’ designation as you were required to do in earlier versions of MLA.
Specific Resource Examples

Page references to the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, are listed in square brackets wherever relevant. Multiple page numbers may be listed as information related to a specific type of resource may be found in more than one location.

It is impossible to list all possible resource types and variations. The idea behind the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* is that you can apply the idea of core concepts to any resource using general principles. See the *Handbook* for more information.

Missing Information [*MLA Handbook* 111]

Most resources should list all of the relevant information, but you may find that a website, newspaper article, etc., is missing a piece of information like an author or a publication date. Do not use a place holder like n.d. or ‘no date’ as used in previous MLA editions. If the missing facts can be found in a reliable source elsewhere, indicate that in the proper location in the citation in square brackets. Otherwise, simply omit the information.

Book – Works Cited general format [*MLA Handbook* 21, 40-41, 97, 107-109]

Author last name, first name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Give the author’s name as it appears on the title page (e.g. if first names are provided, list them; if only the author’s initials are given, just use the initials). Italicize the title and any subtitles. Publishers’ names should be listed abbreviated as much as possible e.g. omit articles (a, an, the), business abbreviations (Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd.) and descriptive words (Books, House, Press, Publishers). When listing academic presses, replace University with U and Press with P.

Book – online ebook [*MLA Handbook* 34, 48, 53, 56, 110]

Cite an electronic book or ebook using the same general format as a print book with some additional elements listed after the publication year (see the core elements table on page 6). Follow the various print book examples listed in this document and simply add in the specific ebook information as indicated in this section.

An ebook is often from a larger database or website collection which should be listed in the citation. MLA no longer requires you to include the date that you access electronic resources if they are from a ‘reliable, stable source’; however, you can include it if you think it will help your reader.

The URL of the resource and access date should also be included [*MLA Handbook* 48, 53, 110]. Remove the URL’s hyperlink and omit http:// or https://.

Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year. Larger container, database or website, URL. Access date.
Electronic book from a Library subscription service:


In-text: (Kan et al. 93)

Electronic book from a website (title and URL of the website included after the year of publication):


In-text: (Shaw)

As the online version of *Pygmalion* did not have page numbers, no page number is included in the in-text citation [MLA Handbook 56].

Electronic book, read on a device like a Kobo or Kindle (no URL):


In-text: (MLA Handbook)

**Book - no author or unknown author** [MLA Handbook 24, 117-118]

If there is no author or the author is unknown, use the title. Shorter titles can be included in full in the in-text citation. Longer titles can be shortened for the in-text citation but the first word (not counting articles like *a*, *an*, *the*, etc.) must remain so the title can be found in the alphabetized bibliography at the end of the paper. Titles of entire works (e.g. book titles) are italicized.


In-text: (Encyclopedia of Crime 212)
Book - one author [MLA Handbook 21]


In-text: (Starkey 97)

Book – two authors [MLA Handbook 21, 116]

The first author’s name is reversed (last, first name) and the second author’s name is written in first, last name order.


In-text: (Gaillet and Eble 310)

Book - three or more authors [MLA Handbook 22, 116]


In-text: (Booth et al. 190)

The first author’s name is reversed (last, first name) and the names of the additional authors are replaced with a comma and et al. (“and others”).

Book - Edited, Translated or Compiled [MLA Handbook 23, 116]


In-text: (Greenspan and Rosenberg 77)

When using an entire book that lists editors, translators or compilers on its title page use the full word – abbreviations such as ed., eds., or trans. are no longer used.

Chapter in an Edited Book [MLA Handbook 30, 97, 117]

As a chapter is part of a larger book, it is cited as part of a larger container (see page 6 for more information on containers). List the editor(s) information after the chapter or section title. The page
numbers of the chapter or section are included at the end of the citation (pp. is used to indicate multiple pages; a single page would be p.).

Each individual chapter or section has its own author:


In-text: (Naremore 266)

No author listed for each section or chapter:


In-text: (“Is Abortion Immoral?” 142)

**Government Documents – print and online** [*MLA Handbook* 28, 41-42, 44, 53]

Government documents may have individual authors (see Karam and Fitzgerald examples below) or may have an entire department as an author (see the section below entitled ‘Group as Author’). The government department may also be the publisher.

The Fitzgerald example below is of a print format government document.


In-text: (Fitzgerald 44)

The Karam example below is of a PDF resource from the Statistics Canada website. The date the item was last updated is included as the publication date, followed by the publication’s URL and the date you accessed the resource. Remove the hyperlink and http:// from the URL and end it with a period.


In-text: (Karam 7)
Group as Author - government agency, association, corporation, etc. [MLA Handbook 25, 104, 117]

A work may be created by a group or corporate author, rather than an individual. If the work’s author and publisher are different entities, give both names, starting with the author (as in the first example below). If the author and publisher are the same entity (as in the second and third examples), omit the author information and start the Works Cited entry with the work’s title.

In the Freedom from Fear example, if the author and publisher were NOT the same, the author’s information would have been listed in this order: name of the government, name of the department or agency (e.g. Canada, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade). Abbreviate commonly shortened terms such as ‘dept.’.


In-text: (United Nations Environment Program 203)

(Nuclear 52)

Encyclopedia or Dictionary Entry [MLA Handbook 27-28, 44]

As an entry from an encyclopedia or dictionary is part of a larger entity, it is cited as part of a larger container (see page 6 for more information on containers). If applicable, list the editor(s) information after the chapter or section title. The page numbers of the chapter or section are included at the end of the citation if available (pp. is used to indicate multiple pages; a single page would be p.).

To cite an entire encyclopedia, see the entries for books with authors or editors.

Print entry, with an individual author for each section:


In-text: (Bercuson 101)
Print entry, with no author for each section:


In-text: ("Existentialism" 203)

Online entry, with an individual author for each section:

The encyclopedia itself may be part of a larger website, as in the example below, or it may be its own entity.


In-text: (Harris)

Online entry, with no author for each section:

The encyclopedia itself may be part of a larger website, as in the example below, or it may be its own entity.


In-text: ("Monarchy")

**Versions of a Book - Revised Editions** [*MLA Handbook* 38-39]

If an edition is given, specify it by number (2nd ed.) or name such as expanded ed., or updated ed. (placed after the title of the work).


In-text: (Booth et al. 190)
Citing Two or More Works by the Same Author [MLA Handbook 55, 113-114, 117]


In-text:   (Barnet, “Practical Guide” 87)
          (Barnet, “Short Guide to Writing” 17)

The author’s name is only listed in the first entry in the Works Cited list [MLA Handbook 113]. The author’s name in the subsequent entries will be replaced by three hyphens and a period (---.). Works listed under the same name are alphabetized by title. If you had another title with Barnet as one of several co-authors, you would list all of the authors’ names following the conventions listed in the other examples in this handout.

Citing Authors with the Same Last Name, Different First Name [MLA Handbook 55]

Create the Works Cited entry following the conventions found elsewhere in the document. For the in-text citation, include the author’s first initial as well as the last name.

In-text:   (S. Barnet 87)
Citing Periodicals (Journals, Magazines, Newspapers) – General Tips \[MLA Handbook 30, 39-40, 45\]

Format the author information as already shown in the book examples. The title of the article is enclosed in quotation marks and the title of the source (journal, magazine or newspaper) that the article comes from is written in italics. Journals and magazines will have volume and/or issue numbers. Include the issue date which may be just a year, a year and a season (e.g. Spring 2016), a month and a year or a specific date (written in day, month, year format).

When using online articles \[MLA Handbook 32, 39-40, 45, 48, 110\] include the database name (if using a Library subscription database) or website and the URL or DOI number of the article. Think of an article in a newspaper, magazine or journal that is contained within a larger database of articles as a container nested within a larger container \[31\].

Most Library databases have a permanent link (may also be called persistent, durable or simply document link) listed for the articles they contain. Use this permanent link rather than the URL shown at the top of the screen as the permanent link will take the user through the Library’s authentication server (where the reader will need to enter their network login to access the article).

While not absolutely necessary depending on the resource, it is considered good form to include the date you accessed the resource.

**Journal Article – Print Format** \[MLA Handbook 30, 39-40, 45\]


In-text: (Witteveen 21)

**Journal Article – Electronic, Library Database, with no DOI** \[MLA Handbook 32, 39-40, 45, 48, 110\]


In-text: (Witteveen 21)

Include a page number in the in-text citation if there is one available (e.g. if using a PDF of the article).
In the Works Cited reference, after the print publication information indicate the name of the Library subscription database (in italics), the URL (use a permanent or durable URL if the database provides one) and the date you accessed the article.

If the database includes Digital Object Identifiers or DOIs for the articles, use that in place of a URL. The DOI remains attached to the article even if the URL should change.

**Journal Article – Electronic, Library Database, with a DOI** [MLA Handbook 32, 39-40, 45, 48, 110]


**In-text:** (De La Fuente et al. 12)

If the database includes Digital Object Identifiers or DOIs for the articles, use that in place of a URL. The DOI remains attached to the article even if the URL should change.

Include a page number in the in-text citation if there is one available (e.g. if using a PDF of the article).

**Journal Article, from the Internet (not a Library Subscription Database)**


**In-text:** (Racette et al. 1215)

If there is no DOI number for the article, use the article’s URL (omit the http:// or https://). If you are using a PDF version of the article that has page numbers, include them in the in-text citation. If you are using an HTML version or do not have page numbers, omit that from the in-text citation [MLA Handbook 48, 110].

Include a page number in the in-text citation if there is one available (e.g. if using a PDF of the article).
Magazine Article – print [MLA Handbook 32, 39-40, 45]


In-text: (Campbell 12)

Articles with no author: start the citation with the article title.

Magazine Article from a Library Database [MLA Handbook 32, 39-40, 45, 48, 110]


In-text: (Campbell 12)

Include a page number in the in-text citation if there is one available (e.g. if using a PDF of the article).

Magazine Article from an Online Source/Website (not a Library Database)


In-text: (Taylor)

As there are no page numbers listed for the online article, do not include anything other than the author’s name in the in-text citation.

Newspaper Article - General [MLA Handbook 30, 42, 45, 48, 110, 111]

For articles that are not printed on consecutive pages, only provide the first page number with a plus sign (e.g. pp. C4+). If the city of publication is not included in the name of a locally published newspaper, add the name of the city in square brackets, not italicized, after the name of the paper:


Remove any http:// or http:// from the URL and remove the URL’s hyperlink.
Newspaper Article - Print [MLA Handbook 30, 42, 45, 110, 111]


In-text: (Sagan B1)

Newspaper Article – No Author, from a Library Database


In-text: (“Sports Digest’ S7)

Replace the URL with a DOI if one if is provided.

Newspaper Article – from the Internet (not a Library Database) [MLA Handbook 30, 42-43]

General Format: Author. “Title of the Article.” Newspaper Title, date of article, website

URL. Access date.

Works Cited: Lewis, Michael. “One of Canada’s Fastest Growing Economies is in…Oshawa.”

one-of-canadas-fastest-growing-economies-is-in-oshawa.html.


In-text: (Lewis)

If the article is also published in print, it may list two dates (the online date and the print date). If you only use the online version, use that date and ignore the other [MLA Handbook 42]. Remove any http:// or http:// from the URL and remove the URL’s hyperlink.

As there are generally no page numbers listed for an online article, do not include anything other than the author’s name in the in-text citation.
Websites – General Tips

As not all online resources provide all of the desired bibliographic information (author, date, page numbers, etc.), you will need to be flexible and use whatever information you are given.

In the Works Cited entry remove the http:// or http:// from the URL [MLA Handbook 110].

Websites may be published by organizations such as libraries, museums, associations. This information is usually listed at the bottom of the website or in the copyright section [MLA Handbook 41, 42]. If relevant, this information can be included after the title of the website. You do not need to include it if the title of the website (e.g. CBC) or the author are the same as the publisher.

The date you access the material is considered an optional element according to the MLA Handbook, 8th ed. However, it is noted that as online materials can be changed at any time, the date of access can be important in indicating which version of the material you used (53). Often, it can be difficult to determine when an item was written or last updated, making the access date very important. For the purposes of this document, access dates have been included for all online content.

For the in-text entry, as there are generally no page numbers indicated just indicate the author’s name or a shortened form of the title if there is no author.

Website, Entire [MLA Handbook 28]

Works cited, with and without an author:

Author. Title of Website. Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.

Title of Website. Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.


In the Canadian Museum of Civilization example, the publisher information (Canadian Museum of History) is included as it is different than the title of the site. No date of publication or last update is included as it was not listed on the website.

In-text, general format, with and without an author:

(Smith)

("Shortened Form of Title")
Website, One Page or Section \textit{[MLA Handbook 28, 30]}

Works Cited, with and without an author:

Author of Specific Page or Section. “Title of Page or Section.” \textit{Title of Website}, Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.

“Title of Page or Section.” \textit{Title of Website}, Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.


In-text, with and without an author:

(Smith)

(“From Devastated”)

For the in-text entry, as there are generally no page numbers indicated just indicate the author’s name or a shorted form of the title if there is no author.

Wikipedia Articles \textit{[MLA Handbook 12, 28, 30]}


In-text: (“Monarchy”)

Check with your instructor to verify whether Wikipedia is an acceptable source. As with any other online resource, assess the accuracy and reliability of the information you are using. If the Wikipedia page has a note indicating that the information needs to be checked or may have errors, it is suggested that you find another source of information. If using Wikipedia, check the sources that the entry uses as references to see if they are valid.

Sources like Wikipedia and Google are good places to start your research, but shouldn’t be where you finish it.
Other Common Resources

Tables, Statistical Information [From MLA Style Blog, style.mla.org/2017/01/02/citing-tables/]

Follow the examples listed throughout this handout to create a works cited entry for the source that contains the table, statistic, etc. The Karam example below is for a Statistics Canada document accessed in PDF format (page numbers are available for the in-text citation).


This report has page numbers as well as numbered figures and tables/charts, so include the page number and table number (in square brackets) as below:

In-text: (Karam 6 [chart 2])

In some cases (e.g. when citing a table from an extensive data set), it might be practical to create a works-cited-list entry for an individual table or chart:

“Table 311.80: Number and Percentage Distribution of Course Enrollments in Languages Other Than English at Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions, by Language and Enrollment Level: Selected Years, 2002 through 2013.” *Digest of Education Statistics*, National Center for Education Statistics, 2015, nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_311.80.asp.

Twitter Message [MLA Handbook 24, 29]

A pseudonym, such as an online username, can be used in place of a regular author name if that is the information provided. If using a short, untitled message such as a tweet, reproduce its full text in the title field, enclosed in quotes as below.

Works Cited: @persiankiwi. “We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now – #Iranelection.” *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.

In-text: (@persiankiwi)

In this example, Twitter is the container that the message is enclosed in so it is italicized.
Personal E-mail [MLA Handbook 29]

When citing an email, use the message’s subject line as the title. Enclose the title in brackets. There will generally be no page number to refer the reader to in the in-text citation.


In-text: (Robinson)

Personal Interview (that you conducted)

In the works cited entry, include the interviewee’s name, type of interview (personal, telephone, etc.) and the date. You may wish to include the interviewee’s name as part of your text rather than place it in brackets.


In-text: (Nesbit)

Class Lectures [MLA Handbook 52]

The MLA Handbook, 8th edition, does not provide specific information on how to cite this type of resource. The following suggestions have been based on the general conventions for other types of resources. Please check with your instructor to verify.

The designation ‘Lecture’, indicating the type of work, is included at the end of the citation as additional information [MLA Handbook 52].

For ease of reading, you may wish to include the lecture information in the body of your essay, indicating date, course and the professor’s name, as in the in-text example below.

Works Cited: Author. “Title of Source.” Publisher, Publication date. Additional information/type of resource.


In-text: In a lecture on 15 May 2017, in a course on effective research, Dr. Robert Smith stated, “Grammar is an essential part of communication”.
PowerPoint Notes or Class Handouts

The *MLA Handbook* does not provide a specific, official rule on citing class or lecture notes that are provided to a class by the professor using PowerPoint. Please check with your professor for his or her personal preferences. The following suggestion follows the general formatting conventions for other resources, including adding the source type at the end of the citation [*MLA Handbook* 52]:

**Works Cited:** Instructor’s Last name, First name. “Title of PowerPoint Presentation.” Date of presentation, Title of Course, Institution Name. *Microsoft PowerPoint* presentation.


Instructor’s Last name, First name. “Title of Handouts/Notes.” Date. Name of Course. Institution Name. Course handout.


When citing a PowerPoint presentation, you may wish to include a specific slide number as part of the in-text citation:

(Smith, slide 5)

**Audio Visual Materials** [*MLA Handbook* 28, 44]

Depending on what you are citing, you may include the names of creators, major contributors or performers after the series title information.

If relevant, include a specific time within an episode or work as part of the in-text citation [*MLA Handbook* 57].

Citing an entire TV series or Movie:

**Works Cited:** Series Title. Created by John Doe, Production Company ABC, time span of series.
Citing an episode from a TV series:

Works Cited: “Episode Title.” Series Title, created by John Doe, season #, episode #,
Production Company ABC, episode date or year.

YouTube video:

If the video has a credited author, include that information. If not, then start the entry with the title.

Works Cited: “Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Unaired Pilot 1996.” YouTube, uploaded by John Doe, Posting date, URL.

While not absolutely required by MLA, you may choose to include the date you accessed the video after the URL.

Online Images

The MLA Handbook does not provide a great deal of information for citing online images. The suggested citation format below has been created based on consistency with other formatting conventions. Generally, cite an online image in the same format as citing a section of a website. If the image was found using Google Images, click on the image and cite the information of the host website.

If there is no artist or creator listed, start the citation with the title or description of the image.

If the image does not have a title, list a description of the image in that field. Do not enclose the description in quotes in that case.

Works Cited: Creator’s Last name, First name. “Title of Image.” Title of Website, Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.

“Title of Image.” Title of Website, Date of publication or last update, URL. Date of Access.
Quoting a Quote (Citing an Indirect or Secondary Source) [MLA Handbook 124]

If you quote a quote or indirectly cite a source, you must remember that you did not see the original source; you can only cite the second-hand or indirect source. For example, a book or article that you are using by the author Runciman may make reference to one of Shakespeare’s plays, but you didn’t actually read the play itself as a source. Note: the abbreviation for “quoted” is “qtd”.

In-text: As the three witches in Macbeth appropriately chant “Fair is foul, and foul is fair” (qtd. in Runciman 74).

Your Works Cited list would have an entry for the Runciman work (the source that you actually used) and not for the source that Runciman himself used (he read the play – you didn’t).
Please check with your instructor for additional formatting preferences.

Works Cited List - Sample [MLA Handbook 20, 111-116]

Centre the title “Works Cited” at the top of the page. Begin each entry flush to the left margin and indent any subsequent lines of the entry 5-7 spaces (one tab). Alphabetize and double-space the entries. For items that are arranged by title, such as “An Unlikely Champion of the Rule of Law”, ignore the ‘An’ when alphabetizing (ignore A, An and The).

Works Cited


@persiankiwi. “We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now – #Iranelection.” *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.

