MLA Style Guide (8th Edition)

The following are examples and explanations that follow the **MLA Handbook** Eighth Edition. This handout is intended as a guide. If you have specific questions, always check with your instructor. **Note: Examples in this handout may be single-spaced to conserve paper. <u>ALWAYS</u> double-space between <u>ALL</u> lines.**

IN-TEXT CITATION

In addition to providing a works cited list at the end of your paper, you must also cite your sources within your paper by using **in-text citations**. You must cite direct quotes, paraphrases or summaries of someone else's words, as well as facts, figures and ideas that are someone else's works.

1. Single author

Include the author's last name and the page number when your text does not include this information.	Straightedge could not be contained, and it "quickly migrated beyond D.C. to become a movement all over the United States" (Moore 61).
When your text names the author, put only the page number in parentheses.	Moore observes that straightedge "quickly migrated beyond D.C. to become a movement all over the United States" (61).

2. Two authors

Give the last name of each author, and the page number in the citation.	The organization could then argue that "copyright ownership arises from and begins upon creation of a work" (Moser and Slay 48).
When you name both authors in the text, put only the page number in parentheses.	Moser and Slay point out that "copyright ownership arises from and begins upon creation of a work" (48).

3. Three or more authors

Include only the first author's name followed by "et al." (which is Latin for "and others").	The authors claim that one cause of obesity in the United States is government-funded farm subsidies (Franck et al. 327).

4. Author unknown

If the author's name is not available, use the title of the work and page or paragraph. <u>Note</u>: Titles of books are italicized, titles of articles are put in quotation marks.	The numbers continue to increase in the last 30 years, and "the size of the U.S. workforce has grown from about 75 million to over 115 million workers" ("Gender Pay" 8).

5. Page number unknown

If a work has no page numbers, such as website articles, you do not need to give paragraph numbers. The author name or article name should correspond to the Works Cited entry.	The activists are trying to "incorporate traditional and cultural values without compromising the goal of women's empowerment" (Powell).

6. Indirect sources

When you paraphrase or quote information that has already been quoted from another source, you must put "qtd. in" before the indirect source.	Ellen Bialystok explains, "People talk more slowly and clearly to children in short, simple sentences" (qtd. in Robson 33).

7. Encyclopedia or dictionary entry

If the dictionary or encyclopedia entry does not have an author, use the word or entry in your quotation marks in your citation.	Of course, in practice, "the location of sovereignty remained controversial" ("Federalism").

8. Selection in an anthology

When using a selection from an anthology, use the name of the author of the selection, not the editor of the anthology in the in-text citation.	In fact, in the essay "What If Shakespeare Had a Sister?" she says, "to have a room of her own, let alone a quiet room or a sound-proof room, was out of the question…" (Woolf 1140).

9. Poetry

When quoting a single line from a poem, only include the line number in p	In Anne Sexton's "The Lost Ingredient" she writes, "Today is made of yesterday" (21).
When quoting between one and three lines from a poem, use a backslash (/) to separate line breaks. For a stanza break, use two backslashes (//).	In Adrienne Rich's poem "Diving into the Wreck" she writes, "I go down. / Rung after rung and still / the oxygen immerses me…." (22-24).

10. Audio or video media

For all time-based media, cite the time by hours, minutes, and seconds as displayed on your media player, separating the numbers with colons.	It's true there have been many advances, "but as scientists make great strides in genetic engineering, we have begun to face uncomfortable issues" ("Robots" 00:31:24-26).

WORKS CITED

At the end of your paper, you will have a separate works cited page. In the list of **works cited**, you will alphabetically list all of the sources that you quoted, paraphrased, or summarized throughout your paper. Each entry that you used in-text citations for will have a corresponding entry on your works cited page.

You will cite your sources by listing the MLA **core elements**. It does not matter what format your source is (it could be a journal article, a web page, or a DVD), what matters is the core elements. So ask yourself "Who is the **author**? What is the **title**? What **version** is it?" and so on. Notice the punctuation that is used after each core element in the chart on the right.

There are a few **optional elements** that you can choose to include, depending on their importance to your source. For example, **date of access** for online materials is optional, but you may want to include that information, since online works can change at any time. Date of access is especially important to include when the online source does not have a publication date listed. **URLs** are also optional. They can be outdated quickly, but they can also provide valuable information on how to find the source, so check with your instructor to see if they prefer that you include them or not on the works cited list. When including URLs, note that MLA only requires the www. address, so **eliminate all http:// or https://** when citing. Consult the MLA Handbook for the entire list of optional elements.

1	Author.
2	Title of source.
3	Title of container,
4	Other contributors,
5	Version,
6	Number,
7	Publisher,
8	Publication date,
9	Location.

Author Format for the List of Works Cited.

Depending on the number and type of authors, there are different ways to format their names on the works cited page. The chart below explains how to format some of the author types.

Number of Authors	Format	Example
No author	If there is no author, alphabetize by title.	
One author	Author's last name, comma, first name (and middle initial if given) ending with a period.	Dillard, Annie.
Two authors	Begin with the first author's last name, comma, first name, comma, the word "and" then the second name **in normal order.**	Bezuidenhout, Louise, and Chandre Gould.
Three or more authors	If there are three or more authors, include only the first author's name, followed by a comma, then "et al."	Leech, Geoffrey, et al.
Editor(s)	If the book has an editor or multiple editors, the "author" is the person(s) who assembled the work. Add their role after their names.	Strand, Mark, and Eavan Boland, editors.
Corporate author	If the author of the work is a corporate author, alphabetize by the name of the institution, association, or government agency.	Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

Books

Basic format	Author(s). *Title of book*. Publisher, Year of publication.
One author	Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1989.
Two authors	Thompson, Judith and Marjorie Stone. *Literary Couplings : Writing Couples, Collaborators, and the Construction of Authorship*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.
Three or more authors	Leech, Geoffrey, et al. *Change in Contemporary English*. Cambridge UP, 2009.
Electronic book from a database	Reddington, Helen. *The Lost Women of Rock Music: Female Musicians of the Punk Era*. Equinox Publishing Ltd, 2012. EBSCO*host*. Note: For electronic books, include the title of the database, (EBSCO*host* in the example above).
Selection in an anthology	Woolf, Virginia. "What If Shakespeare Had a Sister?" *Literature for Life*. Edited by X.J. Kennedy, Dana Gioia, and Nina Revoyr. Pearson, 2013, pp. 1136-1140. Note: On the works cited page, you will alphabetize the entry by the author of the selection used, not the editor of the anthology.
Entire anthology or collection	Strand, Mark, and Eavan Boland, editors. *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2000. Note: When citing an entire anthology or collection, alphabetize the entry by editor(s).
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry	"Federalism." *The Concise Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History*. Edited by Michael Kazin, Rebecca Edwards, and Adam Rothman. Princeton University Press, 2011. Note: If there is no author, alphabetize on the dictionary word or encyclopedia entry. Page numbers not necessary because the entries are arranged alphabetically in the source.
Book with an editor(s).	VanderMeer, Ann and Jeff VanderMeer, editors. *The Weird : A Compendium of Strange and Dark Stories*. Tor Books, 2011.
An edition of a book	Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004. Note: Add the edition number after the title of the book.

Journal, Magazine, & Newspaper Articles

Basic format	Author(s). "Title of article." *Title of journal,* vol. #, no. #, Date of publication, page number(s). Note: The names of months that are longer than four letters are abbreviated (Jan. Feb. Mar. etc.)
Journal article in print	Bezuidenhout, Louise, and Chandre Gould. "Winning the Battle Against Emerging Pathogens: A South African Response." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists,* vol. 70, no. 4, 2014, pp. 10-13.
Journal article from an online library database	Lombard, Kara-Jane. "Art Crimes: The Governance of Hip Hop Graffiti." *Journal for Cultural Research,* vol. 17, no. 3, 2013, pp. 255-278. *Academic Search Premier*. doi:10.1080/14797585.2012.752160. Note: For electronic articles from databases, include the title of the database, and the doi number when available.
Magazine article in print	Bremmer, Ian. "Trading Block." *Time,* vol. 185, no. 17, 11 May 2015, p. 14.
Magazine article online	Jennings, Christian. "Mosquitoes Really Do Prefer Some People to Others, Say Scientists." *Newsweek,* 28 Apr. 2015, www.newsweek.com/2015/ 05/01/mosquitoes-really-do-prefer-some-people-others-say-scientists-326114. Accessed 26 Sept. 2017. Note: MLA only requires the www. address, so eliminate all http:// or https:// when citing URLs.
Newspaper article in print	Cunningham, Aimee. "Although the Number of Zika Cases Has Fallen, the Virus Is Unlikely to Vanish." *The Washington Post.* 4 Nov. 2017, p. H16.
Newspaper article from a database	Marshall, Ryan. "Cracking Tech Code with GRRL Power." *The Washington Post*. 26 Mar. 2015, p. T23. *LexisNexis Academic*.

Other Electronic Sources

Website article with no author	"Drowsy Driving: Asleep at the Wheel." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,* 07 Nov. 2017, www.cdc.gov/features/dsDrowsyDriving/ index.html. <u>Note:</u> If there is no author, start the entry with the title of the webpage.
Website article with no date	"Civil Rights, Cultural Participants." *National Museum of African American History & Culture,* nmaahc.si.edu/civil-rights-cultural-participants. Accessed 30 Oct. 2017. <u>Note:</u> Date of access is not required, but it is especially important to include when the online source does not have a publication date listed.
When the organization is both the author and publisher	"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission." *National Archives and Records Administration*. www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act. <u>Note</u>: If an organization is both the author and publisher (example: National Archives and Records Administration), the organization is listed only once, usually as publisher. No author is stated.
Video from a database	"Southwest American Indian Art: World Indigenous Art." *Films Media Group*, 2015, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=97566&xtid=129211. Accessed 20 Oct. 2017.
DVD video	*He Named Me Malala*. Directed by Davis Guggenheim. Twentieth Century Fox, 2015. <u>Note</u>: List films by their title, and include the name of the director. If it is relevant, list the name of the actors after the director's name.
Online video file	Rhimes, Shonda, and Cyndi Stivers. "The Future of Storytelling." *TED Talks*, April 2017, www.ted.com/talks/shonda_rhimes_and_cyndi_stivers_ the_future_of_storytelling. <u>Note</u>: Cite video sources much like you would cite print sources, giving as much descriptive information to help the reader understand the type of source you are citing.
YouTube video	"Ta-Nehisi Coates: Between the World and Me." *YouTube,* uploaded by Chicago Humanities Festival, 29 Oct. 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUOPM8il7bQ. <u>Note</u>: Include the date it was posted and the person or organization who posted it.
Twitter	@npr. "Snail venom contains powerful painkillers that don't trigger the brain's pleasure circuits the way opioids do." *Twitter*, 13 Nov. 2017, 10:22 a.m., twitter.com/NPR/status/930138696917176320. <u>Note</u>: Put tweets in quotations marks as it appears on Twitter without changes to capitalization. Include the date and time it was posted.

MLA Paper Format

A paper in MLA format should follow these formatting guidelines:

1. Do not make a title page unless your instructor specifically requests one.
2. Use 1" margins on the top, bottom, and sides of your text. Do not justify to the right margin.
3. Use a readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman) and type size (e.g. 12 point).
4. **Double-space the entire paper.**
5. In the upper left hand corner of the first page, type your name, the instructor's name, course number, and the date (be sure to double space between these lines).
6. Center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or put quotations around your title.
7. Indent the first word of each paragraph ½" (or five spaces from the left margin).
8. Type your last name and page number in the upper right hand corner, flush with the right margin and ½" from the top.
9. If a quotation has more than four typed lines, set if off from the text. Begin the block quote on a new line and indent each line 10 spaces from the margin. Double-space the entire quotation. Do not add quotation marks. A colon usually introduces the quote and the parenthetical citation is given at the end, after the final period.

Source: Diana Hacker (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2014).

MLA Works Cited Format

A Works Cited page in MLA format should follow these formatting guidelines:

1. Center the title – Works Cited – one inch from the top of the page. Do not underline, type in all capital letters or use quotation marks.
2. Your last name and page number should continue in the upper right hand corner.
3. Alphabetically list all of the sources you used in your research paper by author. If there is no author, alphabetize by the title.
4. Double space the entire page.
5. The first line of each entry is even with the left margin. Extra lines should be indented ½" (or five spaces from the left margin).

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Works Cited

3 → Bremmer, Ian. "Trading Block." *Time*, vol. 185, no. 17, 11 May 2015, p. 14.

→ "Civil Rights, Cultural Participants." *National Museum of African American History & Culture*,

nmaahc.si.edu/civil-rights-cultural-participants. Accessed 30 Oct. 2017.

He Named Me Malala. Directed by Davis Guggenheim. Twentieth Century Fox, 2015.

Lombard, Kara-Jane. "Art Crimes: The Governance of Hip Hop Graffiti." *Journal for Cultural*

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Marshall, Ryan. "Cracking Tech Code with GRRL Power." *The Washington Post*. 26 Mar. 2015,

p. T23. *LexisNexis Academic*.

→ Reddington, Helen. *The Lost Women of Rock Music: Female Musicians of the Punk Era*.

5 → Equinox Publishing Ltd, 2012. EBSCO*host*.

Rhimes, Shonda, and Cyndi Stivers. "The Future of Storytelling." *TED Talks*, April 2017,

www.ted.com/talks/shonda_rhimes_and_cyndi_stivers_the_future_of_storytelling.

Strand, Mark, and Eavan Boland, editors. *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic*

Forms. W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.

"Southwest American Indian Art: World Indigenous Art." Films Media Group, 2015,

fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=97566&xtid=129211. Accessed 20 Oct.

2017.

"Ta-Nehisi Coates: Between the World and Me." *YouTube*, uploaded by Chicago Humanities

Festival, 29 Oct. 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUOPM8il7bQ.

Thompson, Judith and Marjorie Stone. *Literary Couplings: Writing Couples, Collaborators, and*

the Construction of Authorship. University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.