Modern Language Association (MLA) Style, 8th edition

The MLA citation style is most commonly used in the liberal arts and humanities fields. The 8th edition of the Modern Language Association Style Guide was published in the summer of 2016.

Information taken from the Purdue Owl and MLA.org

Manuscript Formatting

Margins
There should be 1 inch of margins on all four sides of the page.

Headers
Headers should contain your last name followed by the page number flushed to the right side of the page, in the top right-hand corner.

Text Formatting
MLA formatting suggests that you use an easy-to-read font, preferably Times New Roman, that contrasts when italicized. The entire paper should be double-spaced.

First Page
Before you begin your paper, you should include

- your name
- your professor‘s name
- your course name
- the date

all on double-spaced, separate lines.

On a new line after these, you should include a title for your essay that is centered in the middle of the page. Follow your professor‘s formatting instructions if they require a title page.

Subheadings
You may use subheadings to separate and organize ideas in your paper. In MLA format, you may use whatever formatting you like, as long as it is consistent throughout your paper.

Works Cited Page

Basic Guidelines:
The Works Cited page is placed at the end of the essay on a separate page, after any endnotes.

- Heading for list of Works Cited: Works Cited
- Double-spaced

- Begin each reference left-flushed with an ½" indent in lines following.
- All references should be in alphabetical order.
- Begin references with the name of the author in format LastName, FirstName.
- Page numbers should be preceded by pp. in citations.

Book with one author

Author's last name, first name. *Title of Book.* City of publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

**Note that with the new 8th edition, the city of publication is not given except in special situations.*

Sample:

Bergesen, Albert. *The Depth of Shallow Culture: The High Art of Shoes, Movies, Novels, Monsters, and Toys.* Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2006. Print.

Book with more than one author

The first name appears in the last name, first name format while the following name appears in the first name, last name format.

Sample:

If there are more than two authors, you may list the first author followed by "et al."

Sample:

Corbin, Juliet, et al. *Basics of Qualitative Research.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2012. Print.

Note that you must list the names as they appear on the text.

Two or more sources from the same author

You may list the first book normally. The second source will replace the author name with three hyphens and a period.

Last, First. *Title of Book.* City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.
---. *Title of Book.* City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Sample:

Book with no author

If the book does not provide an author, you may omit the author's name and begin the citation with the title, completing the citations normally from there.

Title of Book. City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Sample:

An edition of a book
There are different edition citation formats that should be used for the different types of editions. One type is an book that has been published more than once in different editions. The other is a book that is prepared by someone other than the author.
For a subsequent edition to the original, you may cite normally, adding the edition after the title.

Last, First. *Title of Book.* 2nd edition. City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Sample:

For an edition prepared by someone other than the author, cite as you normally would, adding the name of the preparer or editor after the title.

Last, First. *Title of Book.* Ed. First Last. City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Sample:

A work in an anthology, reference, or collection
If you are trying to cite an edited collection, anthology, or chapter of a book, you may follow this format.

LastName, FirstName. "Title of Article/Essay". *Title of Collection.* Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range. Medium.

Sample:

If you are citing several sections from a collection, consider citing the entire collection, beginning with the editor's name.

LastName, FirstName, and FirstName LastName, eds. *Name of the Collection.* City: Publisher, Year. Medium.

Sample:

Scholarly Journal
Author(s). "Title of Article". *Title of Journal* Volume, Number (Month Year): pages. Medium of Publication.

Sample:

**Note that the month or season presented before the year of publication is required as long as it appears on the text. If it does not appear, it is not required, as the 8th edition states.*

Magazine or Newspaper
Author(s). "Title of article". *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Sample:

**Note that there is no period placed after the periodical name.*

Websites
The 8th edition of MLA formatting suggests including the URL of the websites, without including http:// or https://. Do not use angle brackets.
The date of visitation for the website is now optional, according to the 8th edition.

Template

Sample:
An Interview
There are several different types of interviews that you might use as a source.
One is a **personal interview**, which is an interview that you conduct yourself. In this citation, you would include the name of the interviewee, the descriptor of the personal interview, and a date.

Last, First. Personal Interview. Day Month Year.

Sample:

If you are citing a **published interview**, you should include list the interview beginning with the name of the interviewee. Place the name of the interview in quotation marks if the work is apart of a larger project like a television program, radio program, or other collection, with the larger work following italicized. Include the medium of publication as well as any authors or editors that contributed if you are using a book.

Single Published Interview
Author Last, First. Interview with First Last. *Name of Larger Work* Volume, Edition (Year):
Pages.
Medium.

Series Published Interview

Interviewee Last, First. “Title of Interview”. *Title of Larger Work.* By First Last. City, State: Publisher, Year. Medium.

Sample:

Speeches, Lectures, or Presentations
With these sources, you may list the source beginning with the name of the speaker, followed by the name of the speech in quotation marks. Then include the name of the organization, place, date, and type of presentation.

Last, First. “Name of Speech”. Name of Organization. Place, City, State. Day Month Year. Type of Presentation.

Sample:

Published Conference Proceedings
You may cite these resources like a book. Include the place and date of the presentation alongside the title. Use the abbreviation n.p. if the publisher is not known. If the date is not known, use n.d.

Title including location
LastName, FirstName, ed. *Presentation Title including Place and Time.* City: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium.

Sample:

Title not including location
LastName, FirstName, ed. *Presentation Title not including Place and Time.* Date, Location. City: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Sample:

Film or Movie
You may list films by their title. You can include the name of the director, the film distributor, and the date. Use the name of the actors or performers if it is appropriate.

Name of Film. Dir. FirstName LastName. Perf. FirstName LastName. Studio, Year. Film.

Sample:

Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph
Include the name of the artist, the name of the work, the date, the medium of piece, and the place.

LastName, FirstName. *Title of Piece.* Day Month Year. City, State, Country.

Sample:

Television or Radio Program
You may begin the citation with the name of the show, followed by the name of the series in italics. Also include the name of the network, the call letters to the station, the place, date, and medium.

"Name of Show". *Name of Series.* NetworkName. CallNumbers. City, State, Country. Day Month Year. Medium.
Sample:

Sound Recordings
You can list a sounds recording with the artist's, composer's, or performer's name. You might also list their names after the title of the album. You should place song titles in quotation marks and album names in italics. The date of publishing should follow the name of the recording manufacturer.

The medium of the recording will be last. For example, you might be using a CD or audiocassette, If the medium of the song is a MP3 recording, use guidelines below in "digital files" to cite.

Artist. "Name of Song". *Name of Album.* Recording Manufacturer, Year. Medium.

Sample:

In-Text Citation and Quotation

Guidelines for in-text citations in MLA format:

- Information needed in parentheses in-text will depend on what type of source you are citing.
- Your in-text information that is provided in the parenthesis will correspond with the list of works cited that you provide. You should include whatever information you use to begin your citations. In other words, you would be using the signal word that your citation begins with. Usually, this would be the author's name.

Author-Page Style
This is the most common style of in-text citation. In this style, you place the author's name and the page number where the information came from in parenthesis. If you have already provided the author's name in the sentence you are citing, you may leave their name out of the in-text citation and simply include the page number.

This is my sentence (No'eau 29).
No'eau says this is my sentence (29).
No'eau says "this is my sentence with a quotation" (29).

By Corporate Author
When you are citing a source by a corporate author, you may cite using the name of the corporation. Use abbreviations where necessary.

This is my sentence (Corporation Name 29).

Missing Author
If no author is provided in your source, you may cite beginning with the article name, so this is the signal word that you would include in your in-text citation. If it is a short work, like an essay, article, or chapter, use quotation marks. If it is a longer work, like a book, play, or movie, use italics. Provide a page number if possible.

This is my sentence ("Article Name" 17).
This is my sentence (*Book Title* 28).

Works with Multiple Editions
When you are citing a source that may have multiple editions, you can include a page number, followed by a semicolon, followed by the number for the volume, chapter, edition, and so on.

This is my sentence (35; vol. 3).
This is my sentence (56; ch. 6).

Citing Authors with the Same Last Name.
If you have two sources that have the same last name, you can use the first name initial of each author to distinguish them in-text.

This is my sentence (A. No'eau 34).
This is my sentence (B. No'eau 47).

Multiple Authors
If a source has two or three authors, you can simply list their names.

This is my sentence (AuthorA, AuthorB, and AuthorC 34).

If a source has more than three authors, you can follow the name of the first author with et al.

This is my sentence (AuthorA et al. 34).

Works by the same author
If you are citing multiple sources by the same author, you may include the name of the article or work in the in-text citation. If the title is too long, you may shorten it.

This is my sentence (No'eau, "Article Title" 34).
No'eau says this is my sentence ("Article Title" 34.)

Citing Non-Print Sources
When citing non-print sources, like websites or online articles, you do not need to include a page number. You may simply include the signal word that you began your citation with.