



MLA 9th Edition Style Guide

The guide contains citation examples for frequently cited sources types. Examples are adapted from the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition, 2021. Refer to the handbook to view additional examples, find explanations of in-text documentations, and study other characteristics of MLA style.

Copies are available in the Main Stacks and Reference at the Library: LB2369 .M52 2021

This guide is not a substitute for reading and understanding the *MLA Handbook*, nor is it a substitute for what your instructor requires. You can also find the guide online in Research & Writing Help on the JSCC Library webpage (<http://jsc.edu/library>).

Get MLA Style Center Help (<https://style.mla.org/category/ask-the-mla/>)

URL Note:

Always include a URL, DOI or web address to help readers locate your sources. It is encouraged that you use citing containers such as YouTube, JSTOR, Spotify, EBSCO, or Netflix to provide easy access and verification of sources. Only the www. address is required, therefore eliminate all https:// when citing. When a DOI is provided always use that. Therefore, provide the best URL possible, and the rest of the information you provided in your works-cited entry will help your readers find the source.

General guideline:

Author. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Other Contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date (as specific as possible), Location (pages, paragraphs, and/or URL, DOI or permalink). *2nd container's title*, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

Note: If the source is a smaller work inside of a bigger work, such as an article in a journal, follow the above format, where the article is "title of source" and the journal is "title of container." If the source is a big work, such as a book, the source functions as both the "title of source" and "title of container." Set the title in italics and place a period after it. Always pay special attention to the punctuation needed. Each entry is formatted as a hanging indent.

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Print Materials

Book by a single author:

De Hamel, Christopher. *Meeting with Remarkable Manuscripts: Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World*. Penguin Press, 2017.

Note: This is the basic MLA works cited entry. Include the author's name (last, first), followed by the title of the book (in italics), the name of the publisher, and the year of publication. The publication information is on the title page of the book. The medium such as print or web, and the city of publication, which were both required in previous editions of MLA, are no longer needed in the 8th edition. Also, MLA now only uses italics for titles of large works such as books, whereas in previous editions it has allowed the use of underlining.

Book by a single editor:

Richardson, George, editor. *Machine Scoring of Student Essays*. 2nd ed., Utah State UP, 2006.

Note: "UP" is the abbreviation for "University Press" and "ed." is the abbreviation for "edition."

Book by two or three authors:

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and John Ehrenreich, editors. *The American Health Empire: Power, Profits and Politics*. Vintage, 2008.

Note: Common terms in a works cited entry like "edited by," "translator," and "review of" are not abbreviated in the 9th edition of MLA.

Book by more than three authors:

Quirk, Randolph, et al. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. Longman, 1985.

Note: "et al" means "and others."

Book by a corporate author:

American Medical Association. *The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine*
Edited by Charles B. Clayman, Random, 2008.

Work in a textbook that contains many different works:

Eliot, T. S. "The Love Song of I. Alfred Prufrock." *The Norton Anthology of American*

Literature, edited by Nina Baym 7th ed., Norton, 2007, pp. 1577-80.

Note: When small works, such as a short story or journal article, reside inside a bigger work, such as a textbook or a journal, the bigger work is referred to as the container. In some cases, there may be two containers, such as when an article in a journal was found in a database (the journal would be the first container and the database would be the second container). A container should always be followed by the container (title of the book that contains that work, given in italics). In addition, when citing a work such as a short story in a larger collection, a page range for where the short story is located in the book is given at the end. Use "p," if it is a single page and use "pp," if it is a page range.

Encyclopedia article:

Trainen, Isaac N., et al. "Religious Directives in Medical Ethics." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*,

edited by Warren T. Reich, vol. 4, Free, 1978, pp. 398-402.

Scholarly article from a journal with only an issue number:

Roberson, Paul. "The Journey of the Fledgling: A Study of Herons Along the Florida Coast."

Southeastern Review of Ornithology, no. 42, 2008, pp. 1-24.

Note: 42 is the issue number.

Scholarly article from a journal with both a volume and issue number:

Cameron, Lindsay. "Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the World Sixty Years Later." *Virginia*

Quarterly Review, vol. 81, no. 4, 15 Jan. 2005, pp. 275-78.

Note: The volume is 81 and the issue number is 4. Also, MLA 9th edition requires that the dates in your works cited list are given as fully as they are provided in your sources. If your sources provide a month, day, and year, use the example above for formatting.

Newspaper article:

Lollar, Michael. "Beale Fest is Roots-Strong." *Commercial Appeal* [Memphis], 19 Mar. 2010, p/

A1.

Note: A is the section; 1 is the page number. Newspapers are typically arranged by sections. For

newspapers not published nationally, you must give the city of publication in square brackets if it is not already included in the title.

Magazine article:

Ali, Loraine. "Cashing in on a Legend." *Time*, 20 Mar. 2013, p. 70.

Anonymous article in a magazine:

"What Is Going On?" *Popular Science*, Apr. 2008, pp. 70-72.

Film or Movie:

Defiance. Directed by Edward Zwick, performances by Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Alexa

Davalos, Jamie Bell, George MacKay, Paramount Vintage, 2008.

Note: List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name. To emphasize specific performers or directors, begin the citation with the name of the desired performer or director, followed by the appropriate title for that person.

Electronic Books and Electronic Databases

Electronic book (ebook):

Andromache, Karanika. *Voices at Work: Women, Performance, and Labor in Ancient Greece*. E-book ed., Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.

Chapter from an eBook in a Database:

Ladd, Roger A. "Selling Satire: Gower, Chaucer, and the End of the Estates." *Critical Insights: Geoffrey Chaucer*, edited by James M. Dean, Grey House Publishing, 2017, pp. 81-96. *Literary Reference Center Plus*,
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lkh&AN=123240748&site=lrc-plus>.

Note: MLA considers the term "e-book" to refer to publications formatted specifically for reading with an e-book reader device (e.g., a Kindle) or a corresponding web application. These e-books will not have URLs or DOIs. If you are citing a book content from an ordinary webpage with a URL, use the "A Page on a Web Site" format above.

Scholarly article accessed in an electronic database with DOI:

Blight, James G. "Watching McNamara in Tehran." *World Policy Journal*, vol. 25, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 181–183. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1162/wopj.2008.25.3.181.

Luman, Elizabeth T. "Maternal Characteristics Associated with Vaccination of Young Children." *Pediatrics*, vol. 111, no. 5, May 2010, pp. 1215-18. *Academic Search Elite*, doi:10.1038/pedia1170.

Note: The rule for this entry is similar to a journal article found in print. When accessing a work online, the location where you found it (the URL) is given at the very end. The above example has two containers: the title of the journal that contains the article (*Pediatrics*) and the name of the database that contains the journal (*Academic Search Elite*). Finally, notice that the URL begins with "doi." If available, use the DOI link because this link will not change if the URL does.

Controversial issue article with anonymous author accessed in an electronic database:

“By the Numbers: Performance-Enhancing Substances.” *Issues & Controversies*, 24 June 2005.

InfoBase, www.icof.infobaselearning.com/support-materials/by-the-numbers/p/by-the-numbers-performance-enhancing-substances.aspx?sr=1&tab=1&ID=5868.

Note: This article only appears in this website’s database, not a journal. Therefore, it has no volume or issue number.

Newspaper article accessed in an electronic database:

Humphrey, Tom. “Lawmaker: Proposed Online Sales Tax Rule is Doomed.” *The Jackson Sun*,

28 Nov. 2016. *ProQuest*,

login.ezproxy.jsc.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/docview/1843892516?accountid=55841.

Magazine article accessed in an electronic database:

Dudley, Steven. “War in Columbia’s Oil Fields.” *Business Week*, 5 Aug. 2008, p. 15.

MasterFILE Premier,

www.web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=32656s77-1461-490c-aa6c-6d33428a172b%40sessionmgr4007.

Journal Article with a URL not a DOI:

Bash, James. “The Astoria Music Festival.” *Opera Canada*, vol. 51, no. 3, Fall 2010, pp. 52+.

Gale General OneFile,

www.link.gale.com/apps/doc/A241356594/ITOF?u=tel_a_jackscc&sid=ITOF&xid=8def64e6.

Internet Sources

Newspaper or magazine article on the web with an author or authors:

Nicholson, Blake. "Tribes again ask Federal Judge to shut down Dakota Access Pipeline" *The Bismarck Tribune*, 19 Oct. 2020, www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/tribes-again-ask-federal-judge-to-shut-down-dakota-access-pipeline/article_422dd935-c2f4-5501-ad82-bb176a9eba74.html. Accessed 20 Oct. 2021.

Newspaper or magazine article on the web (anonymous):

"Schools Hope to Teach Pushy Parents a Lesson." *Washington Post*, 22 Aug. 2013, www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2000/08/22/schools-hope-to-teach-pushy-parents-a-lesson/550835c6-cd5c-b7aa-778c7a05cee7/. Accessed 17 Feb. 2020.

Entire web site:

The MLA Style Center. Modern Language Association, 1961-2017, www.style.mla.org. Accessed 06 July 2020.

Note: The title of the website (in this case, *The MLA Style Center*) and the name of the website's sponsor or publisher (Modern Language Association) may be somewhat different. When this is the case, both must be included, with the website in italics and the name of the organization listed after. Also, if the information is available, provide the date range for how long the website has held its copyright (in this case, from 1961 to 2017).

Web page with author:

Johnson, Douglas. "An Account of Events in Salem." *CNN*, 25 Oct. 2002, www.cnn.com/2017/08/21/us/account-of-salem-events/index.html. Accessed 11 Aug. 2011.

Web page with no author:

“Harness the Rain.” *Organic Gardening*, 2009, www.organicgardening.com/blog/harness-the-rain.html. Accessed 10 Sept. 2010.

Web page with corporate author:

“Avian Influenza: The Virus and Its Spread.” *Center for Disease Control*. 19 Aug. 2009, www.cdc.gov/fle/avianflu/avian-in-birds.html. Accessed 06 July 2021.

Note: When a work is written by a corporate author (in this case, Center for the Disease Control), the corporate author is often also the publisher. When this is the case, skip the author part and start with the title of the work and list it only as the publisher. However, like in the above example, sometimes the corporate author and publisher can also be the name of the website itself, and when this is the case, only include the name of the website (in italics) and do not include the name of the organization in the author or publisher field.

Web page with no date given:

“Rethink your Life.” *American Society of Psychologists*, www2.apa.org/monitor/2010/07-08/soc.aspx. Accessed 06 June 2022.

Note: The MLA 9th edition states that when information is missing (in this case, the date), do not include a placeholder for the unknown information.

Personal site:

Lancashire, Ian. *Ian Lancashire*, 2017, www.ianlancashire.com. Accessed 11 Nov. 2020.

Note: In the case, the author of the website and the name of the website are the same person.

Email:

Ungar, Jay. “Re: The New Song.” Received by Molly Mason, 14 Sept. 2013.

Note: The subject line of the email is considered the title and placed within quotation marks.

An Image (including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph):

Vermeer, Johannes. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. 1665. Mauritshuis, The Hague. *Mauritshuis*, www.mauritshuis.nl/en/our-collection/artworks/670-girl-with-a-pearl-earring/. Accessed 05 July 2022.

Note: Provide the artist's name, the work of italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, and the date of access.

Reed, William. "A girl pets a calf in Scotland, 1918." *Found*, National Geographic Creative, 22 March 2016, www.natgeofound.tumblr.com/page/2. Accessed 06 July 2022.

Note: If the work cited is available on the web only, then provide the name of the artist, the title of the work, and then follow the citation format for a website. If the work is posted via a username, use that username for the author.

Reviews, Plays, and Performances

A Review:

Review Author. "Title of Review (if there is one)." Review of Performance Title, by Author/Director/Artist. *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, page.

Examples – Book Reviews:

Herzman, Ronald. Review of *The Book of the Heart*, by Eric Jager. *Speculum*, vol. 78, no. 3, July 2003, pp. 908-909. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20060830>.

Rohrbaugh, Lisa. Review of *Zero Zone*, by Scott O'Connor. *Library Journal*, 1 July 2020, www.libraryjournal.com/?reviewDetail=zero-zone.

Example – Play:

Euripides. *The Trojan Women. Ten Plays*, translated by Paul Roche, New American Library, 1998, pp. 457-512.

Shakespeare, William. *As You Like It*. Airmont Pub. Co., 1965.

Performance Examples – Plays & Concert:

Shaw, George Bernard. *Heartbreak House*. Directed by Robin Lefevre, Roundabout Theatre

Company, 11 Oct. 2006, American Airlines Theatre, New York City.

Sing Me the Universal: A Walt Whitman Bicentennial. Conducted by Mark Shapiro, performed

by Cecilia Chorus of New York, 2 Mar. 2019, Church of Saint Frances Xavier, New

York City.

Note: To cite a review, include the title of the review (if available), then the phrase, “Review of” and provide the title of the work (in italics for books, plays, and films; in quotation marks for articles, poems, and short stories). Finally, provide performance and/or publication information

Miscellaneous Sources

Post in an online forum:

EdgarBopp. "Time is a Flat Circle." *Reddit*, 12 Oct. 2017,

www.reddit.com/r/funny/comments/75xzli/time_is_a_flat_circle/.

Note: The author is the username of the creator of the post.

Twitter:

@tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." *Twitter*,

22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m., twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/16099686897174320.

Note: The author field will contain the username. Put the entire tweet exactly as it appears in quotation marks in place of a title. Because tweets provide an exact time, also include that information right after the date.

YouTube:

"Which BBQ Sauce is the Best? Bless Your Rank." *YouTube*, uploaded by It's a Southern Thing.

8 Nov. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvSWe641fqY.

McGonigal, Jane. "Game and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

Note: If the author's name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author's name before the title.

Recorded song:

Owen, Jake. "Down to the Honkytonk." *Greetings from Jake Owen*, Big Loud, 29 Mar. 2019.

Spotify,

open.spotify.com/user/spotify/playlist/37i9dQZF1E8Jg749LUwafa?si=7y8xbo3

RnGXckIXa2eONg.

Note: The name of the musician is placed first, and the song title is put in quotes, the album title

is in italics, followed by the record label, the date the album was released, the container of the album, and finally, the URL where the song can be found online.

Personal Interview:

Johnson, Evan. Personal interview. 14 Feb. 2009.

Note: The name of the person being interviewed is first.

Published Interviews (Print or Broadcast):

Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-50.

Amis, Kingsley. "Mimic and Moralist." *Interviews with Britain's Angry Young Men*, By Dale Salwak, Borgo P, 1984.

Note: List the interview by the full name of the interviewee. If the name of the interview is part of a larger work like a book, a television program, or a film series, place the title of the interview in quotation marks and place the title of the larger work in italics. If the interview appears as an independent title, italicize it. For books, include the author or editor name after the book title. If the interview from which you quote does not feature a title, add the descriptor, *Interview by* (unformatted) after the interviewee's name and before the interviewer's name.

Online-only Published Interviews:

Zinkievich, Craig. Interview by Gareth Von Kallenbach. *Skewed & Reviewed*, 27 Apr. 2009, www.arcgames.com/en/games/star-trek-online/news/detail/1056940-skewed-%2526-reviewed-interviews-craig. Accessed 06 July 2022.

Speeches, Lectures, Oral Presentations, or Conference Presentations:

Hayden, Dr. Carla. "The Role of Libraries and Librarians in the Misinformation Age." American Library Association, Annual Conference, 26 June 2022, Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. Guest Lecture.

Note: Start with speaker's name. Then, give the title of the speech (if any) in quotation marks. Follow with the title of the conference or meeting and then the name of the organization. Name the venue and its city (if the name of the city is not listed in the venue's name). Use the descriptor that appropriately expresses the type of presentation (e.g., Address, Lecture, Reading, Keynote Speech, Guest Lecture, Conference Presentation).