MLA (MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION)

Style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.

MLA regulates:
- document format
- in-text citations
- works cited list
An MLA Style paper should:

- Be typed on white 8.5" x 11" paper
- Double-space everything
- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
- Leave only one space after punctuation
- Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
The first page of an MLA Style paper will:

- Have no title page
- Double space everything
- List your name, your instructor’s name, the course, and date in the upper left-hand corner
- Center the paper title (use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quote marks [unless the title of a work is a subpart of your title], or bold typeface)
- Insert a page number in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page (list your last name and page number here)
IN-TEXT CITATIONS: THE BASICS

An in-text citation is a brief reference in your text that indicates the source you consulted.

- It should direct readers to the entry in your works-cited list for that source.
- It should be unobtrusive: provide the citation information without interrupting your own text.
- In general, the in-text citation will be the author’s last name (or abbreviated title) with a page number, enclosed in parentheses.
In-text Example:

Wordsworth states that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:


If your essay provides a signal word or phrase—usually the author’s last name—the citation does not need to also include that information.
WHAT IF THERE’S NO KNOWN AUTHOR?

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change…” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).

According to the authors of “The Impact of Global Warming,” many hotspots are likely in North America because the region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change…” (6).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

In-text example:

Disability activism should work toward “creating a habitable space for all beings” (Garland-Thomson).

Corresponding works-cited entry:

WORKS CITED: THE BASICS

Each entry in the list of works cited is made up of core elements given in a specific order.

The core elements should be listed in the order in which they appear here. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown here.

Author.
Title of source.
Title of container,
Other contributors,
Version,
Number,
Publisher,
Publication date,
Location.
Optional.

**Author.**

**Title of source.**

**Title of container.**

**Other contributors.**

**Version.**

**Number.**

**Publisher.**

**Publication date.**

**Location.**
WORKS CITED EXAMPLES

Author.

Begin the entry with the author’s last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name, as presented in the work. End this element with a period.

Examples:


Title of Source.

The title of the source should follow the author’s name. Depending upon the type of source, it should be listed in italics or quotation marks.

books and websites should be in italics:


periodicals (journal, magazine, newspaper article), television episodes, and songs should be in quotation marks:


Title of Container,

Container - Unlike earlier versions, the eighth edition refers to containers, which are the larger wholes in which the source is located. For example, if you want to cite a poem that is listed in a collection of poems, the individual poem is the source, while the larger collection is the container. The title of the container is usually italicized and followed by a comma, since the information that follows next describes the container.

Examples:


Containers within Containers,

In some cases, a container might be within a larger container. You might have read a book of short stories on Google Books, or watched a television series on Netflix. You might have found the electronic version of a journal on JSTOR. It is important to cite these containers within containers so that your readers can find the exact source that you used.

“94 Meetings.” *Parks and Recreation*, season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 April, 2010. (Netflix), www.netflix.com/watch/70152031?

Other Contributors,

In addition to the author, there may be other contributors to the source who should be credited, such as editors, illustrators, translators, etc. If their contributions are relevant to your research, or necessary to identify the source, include their names in your documentation.

Note: In the eighth edition, terms like editor, illustrator, translator, etc., are no longer abbreviated.


Version,

If a source is listed as an edition or version of a work, include it in your citation.


Number,

If a source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a multi-volume book, or journal with both volume and issue numbers, those numbers must be listed in your citation.


EXAMPLES

Publisher,

The publisher produces or distributes the source to the public. If there is more than one publisher, and they are all relevant to your research, list them in your citation, separated by a forward slash (/).

Note: the publisher’s name need not be included in the following sources: periodicals, works published by their author or editor, a Web cite whose title is the same name as its publisher, a Web cite that makes works available but does not actually publish them (such as YouTube, WordPress, or JSTOR).


Publication date,

When the source has more than one date, it is sufficient to use the date that is most relevant to your use of it. If you’re unsure about which date to use, go with the date of the source’s original publication.


Location. (or , if using more than one location)

Be as specific as possible in identifying a work’s location.


SHOULD I USE OPTIONAL ITEMS?

MLA lists several pieces of information which are optional.

Always Follow your **instructor’s** Guidelines

Items on the right are optional and should be included only if your instructor requires them. Different instructors may require different optional inclusions, so ask.

- DOIs (digital object identifiers)
- Permalinks
- URLs
- Date of access
- Date of original publication
- City of publication
MY INSTRUCTOR WANTS DIGITAL LOCATORS IN MY WORKS CITED

Cite optional locations (in this order of preference)

- DOI
- Permalink
- URL
WHERE DO I FIND THE DOI?
(DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER)

- Remember that not all sources will have a DOI.
- You will find DOIs for online database articles [when there is one] in the detailed record.

Examples:


WHERE DO I FIND THE PERMALINK?

Remember to only use the permalink link if your source does NOT have a DOI

Step 1:
Click the Permalink button off to the side of your online article

Step 2:
Copy and paste the permalink into your works cited entry

Example:

CITING THE URL
(THE WEB ADDRESS)

- Remember to only use a URL if there isn’t a DOI or a permalink.
- Do NOT include https://

Example:

EXAMPLES

- Include the word “Accessed.”
