MLA NEW

8th Edition

Quick Guide

Check the format

☐ Entire paper has 1" margins.

☐ You used Times New Roman & 12-point font.

☐ The right header has your last name, a space, & page number.

☐ The heading is on the left.

- Your Name
- Teacher's Name
- Class, period
- Date

☐ Entire paper is double spaced including the Works Cited page.

☐ Center the title with keywords capitalized.

☐ Works Cited is on the last page.

In-Text Citations

When quoting, paraphrasing , summarizing, or referring to a source from the Works Cited page, use parenthetical/in-text citations in the body of the text.
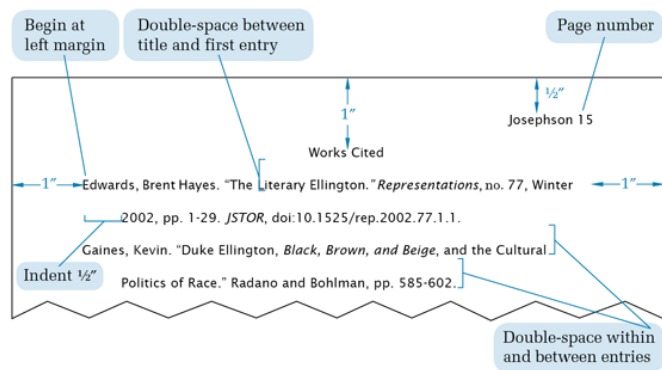
- An in-text citation generally consists of the author's last name and page number (Smith 15).

- If the author's name is already used in the sentence, include only the page number in the parentheses:
    Smith stated the egg came before the chicken (144).

- If the work cited has no author, use the title or a shortened version of it (Eggs 54).

- If a source does not have page numbers or fixed page numbers (as from some electronic devices), include in the in-text citation enough information for the reader to find the corresponding entry on the works cited page—usually the author's last name.

    The play "The Chicken and the Egg" was a light-hearted comedy (Johnson).

Works Cited

The elements in a Works Cited entry should be listed in the following order:

Example:

1. Author.
   Copeland, Edward.

2. Title of source.
   "Money."

   CONTAINER 1

3. Title of container,
   The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen,

4. Other contributors,
   edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster,

5. Version,

6. Number,

7. Publisher,
   Cambridge UP,

8. Publication date,
   1997,

9. Location.
   pp. 131–48.

Print Book Example:

Copeland, Edward. "Money." *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, edited by Copeland and

   Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48.

Website Example:

"*Curiosity* Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!" *NASA's Journey to Mars:* edited

   by Sarah Loff, NASA, 30 July 2015,www.nasa.gov/topics/journeytomars/videos/index.html.

Article from a Database Example:

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color, and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration*

   Series." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. *GALE*, galegroup.com/ic/ovic/

   ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?disableHighlighting=&displayGroupName

What's New in the 8th Edition

The eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*, published in 2016, rethinks documentation for an era of digital publication. The MLA now recommends a universal set of guidelines that writers can apply to any source and gives writers in all fields—from the sciences to the humanities—the tools to intuitively document sources. Learn more below about the changes to MLA guidelines.

The List of Works Cited

The eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook* introduces a new model for entries in the works-cited list, one that reflects recent changes in how works are published and consulted. Previously, a writer created an entry by following the MLA's instructions for the source's publication format (book, DVD, Web page, etc.). That approach has become impractical today, since publication formats are often combined (a song listened to online, for example, could have been taken from a record album released decades ago) or are undefinable.

In the new model, the work's publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, "How do I cite a book [or DVD or Web page]?" the writer creates an entry by consulting the MLA's list of core elements—facts common to most works—which are assembled in a specific order. The MLA core elements appear below:

In the new model, then, the writer asks, "Who is the author? What is the title?" and so forth— regardless of the nature of the source.

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

Abbreviations

Common terms in the works-cited list like *editor*, *edited by*, *translator*, and *review of* are no longer abbreviated. The eighth edition provides a shorter list of recommended abbreviations (96–97).

Authors

When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is normally given. It is followed by *et al.* (22). (Previously, the omission of coauthors was limited to sources with four or more authors and was presented as an option.)

Books and Other Printed Works

- Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.* (46).

For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations (51).

Journals

- Issues of scholarly journals are now identified with, for instance, "vol. 64, no. 1" rather than "64.1" (39–40).

If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year (45).

Online Works

- The URL (without http:// or https://) is now normally given for a Web source. Angle brackets are not used around it (48, 110).

- The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged (110).

- Citing the date when an online work was consulted is now optional (53).

Placeholders for unknown information like *n.d.* ("no date") are no longer used. If facts missing from a work are available in a reliable external resource, they are cited in square brackets (2.6.1). Otherwise, they are simply omitted.

Publishers

- Publishers' names are now given in full, except that business words like *Company* (*Co.*) are dropped.

- The kinds of publications that don't require a publisher's name are defined (42).

When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization's name is now given only once, usually as the publisher (25). No author is stated.

Miscellaneous

- Full publication information is now given for widely used reference works. Page-number spans are given for articles in alphabetically arranged reference books in print. In other words, reference works are treated like other works and are no longer subject to exceptions.

The medium of publication is no longer stated, except when it is needed for clarity (52).

Source: style.mla.org/