



Creating a Works Cited list using the 8th edition

With its latest edition, MLA is using a more general method of documentation that may be applied to every possible source. Since texts have become increasingly mobile, and the same document may be found in several different sources, following a set of fixed rules is no longer sufficient.

The current system is based on a few principles rather than an extensive list of specific rules. The handbook gives examples of how to cite sources, but it is organized according to the process of documentation rather than by the sources themselves. This process teaches writers a flexible method that is universally applicable. Once you are familiar with the method, you can use it to document any type of source, for any type of paper, in any field.

Here is an overview of the process:

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. These are the general pieces of information that MLA suggests including in each Works Cited entry. In your citation, the elements should be listed in the following order [MLA Handbook p. 20]:

1. Author. [last name first - example - Burke, Kenneth]
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container, [in italics]
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown here because punctuation is now simpler (just commas and periods separate the elements), and information about the source is kept to the basics.

Basic rules

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper with the same one-inch margins and last name page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize nor put them in quotation marks) and center at the top of the page. (If the list contains only one entry, make the heading read Work Cited.) [MLA Handbook p. 111]
- **Double space the entire page.**
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent. [MLA Handbook p. 112]

Formatting and Ordering the Works Cited List

- The entries you create for your sources are gathered into an alphabetical list. [MLA Handbook 2.7.1 - 2.7.5, p. 112-16]
- Sequential page numbers - [MLA Handbook p. 46]
If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50.
- Non-sequential page numbers - [MLA Handbook 2.5.1, p. 110]
If a work in a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number and a plus sign, leaving no intervening space.

Williams, Joy. "Rogue Territory." *The New York Times Book Review*, 9 Nov. 2014, pp. 1+.

The names of months that are longer than four letters are abbreviated in the works cited list [MLA Handbook 1.61.1, p. 95].

A suffix that is an essential part of the name - like Jr. or a roman numeral - appears after the given name, preceded by a comma [MLA Handbook 2.1.2, pp. 103-04].

Rockefeller, John D., IV
Rust, Arthur George, Jr.

Citing an Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword [MLA Handbook 2.2.1, p. 106]

Felstiner, John. Preface. *Selected Poems and Prose of Paul Celan*, by Paul Celan, translated by Felstiner, W. W. Norton, 2001, pp. xix-xxxv.

Versions of the Bible [MLA Handbook 2.3, p. 107]

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

The Bible. The New Oxford Annotated Version, 3rd ed., Oxford UP, 2001.

The New Jerusalem Bible. Edited by Susan Jones, Doubleday, 1985.

Documenting Scripture [MLA Handbook pp. 122-23]

[Created 01-03-17 Harriger and Beatty approved by Mills and Morgan]



CITING EXAMPLES

ANONYMOUS, NO AUTHOR EXAMPLE - [MLA Handbook pp. 24, 56]

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004. Research Division Report 46.

ONE AUTHOR EXAMPLE - [MLA Handbook p. 21]

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading*. Oxford UP, 2011.

TWO AUTHORS EXAMPLE - [MLA Handbook p. 21]

Dorris, Michale, and Louis Erdrich. *The Crown of Columbus*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.

THREE OR MORE AUTHORS - [MLA Handbook p. 22] [Edition p. 39]

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding Composition*. 3rd ed., Utah State UP, 2004.

CITING EDITORS OR TRANSLATORS - [MLA Handbook p. 23]

BOOK – ANTHOLOGY WITH AN EDITOR - [MLA Handbook p. 27]

Swanson, Gunnar. "Graphic Design Education as a Liberal Art: Design and Knowledge in the University and the 'Real World.'" *The Education of a Graphic Designer*, edited by Steven Heller, Allworth P, 1998, pp. 13-24.

MULTIVOLUME WORK - [MLA Handbook p. 39]

Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes*. 2nd ed., vol. 2, Oxford UP, 2002.

Wellek, Rene. *A History of Modern Criticism, 1750-1950*. vol. 5, Yale UP, 1986.

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL - [MLA Handbook p. 21 and p. 45]

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's *Bashai Tudu*." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, Jan. 1996, pp. 41-50.

CITING ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

A POSTING OR AN ARTICLE AT A WEB SITE - [MLA Handbook p. 28]

Hollmichel, Stephanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/.

ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE DATABASE - [MLA Handbook pp. 31-32]

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *The Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, Mar. 2007, pp. 173-96. *Proquest*, <http://search.proquest.com/prx-warner.lirn.net/docview/194931118?accountid=35797>.

eBOOK [MLA Handbook p. 31, 34]

Pickrell, John. *Flying Dinosaurs : How Fearsome Reptiles Became Birds*. Columbia UP, 2014. *eBook Academic Collection*, <http://search.ebscohost.com/prx-warner.lirn.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=828281&site=ehost-live>

E-MAIL (INCLUDING E-MAIL INTERVIEWS) - [MLA Handbook p. 29]

Kunka, Andrew. "Re: Modernist Literature." Received by John Watts, 15 Nov. 2000.

TWEET - [MLA Handbook p. 29]

@pesiankiwi. "We have report of large street battles in east @ west of Tehran now - #Iraelection." Twitter, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/pesiankiwi/status/2298106072.

EXAMPLES OF CITING SOURCES IN THE TEXT

Author's Name In Narrative [MLA Handbook p. 76]:

Rogers compared reaction times ... (177).

Describe An Idea Or Event In Narrative With No Mention of Author(s):

In a recent study of reaction times ... (Rogers 177).

Direct Quotation of Author's Work [MLA Handbook p. 54 and p. 76]:

"The reaction time was..." (Rogers 177).

Rogers stated "the reaction time was..." (177).

Quotation that extends to more than four lines [MLA Handbook pp. 76-77]

In-text Citations for Print Sources with No Known Author [MLA Handbook pp. 55-56]

"comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change" ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).