

Citation Basics: MLA Style (8th Edition)

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. MLA has one set of guidelines for creating citations for all types of sources. To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, you need to create a list of sources of information (works) cited and a series of citations that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source (in-text parenthetical citations). Create a citation for each source using the nine pieces of information (core elements) described below in the order listed. When you cannot find one of the core elements, skip it, and move to the next one. Use the punctuation shown in each box. Many examples are provided following the explanations. For more detailed explanations and additional types of citations, please see the *MLA Handbook*, (8th ed.), or ask a librarian for assistance.

MLA Core Elements

1 Author.

2 Title of source.

3 Title of container,

4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,

9 Location.

1 Author.

The person who or organization that created the source.

2 Title of source.

The specific name of the source. Book titles are in italics but article titles, chapter titles, episode titles, etc. are in quotation marks. A colon marks the beginning of a subtitle.

3 Title of container,

When the source forms a part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container that holds the source. Sometimes a source has more than one container (e.g. a journal article contained in a journal that is contained in a database). Repeat items 3-9 for each container.

4 Other contributors,

List people who helped create the source but didn't actually write it (e.g. an editor or a producer). Include the role of the person with their name.

5 Version,

If there is more than one edition of the source (e.g. 2nd edition or Director's Cut), specify which one you used.

6 Number,

If your source is part of a numbered set (e.g. volume, issue, episode, etc.), specify the numbers here with appropriate abbreviations or designations (e.g. vol., no., season, or episode).

7 Publisher,

The organization responsible for producing the source is making it available for use. Do not include publishers of journals, magazine, newspapers or databases. Do not include publishers of websites that have the same website title as the name of the publisher.

8 Publication date,

Use the date as found on your source. You may even include the time as well as the day month year (MLA specifies this date order to avoid extra commas).

9 Location.

This includes page numbers for articles (where the article is located in a newspaper or journal), digital object identifiers (DOI's) for journal articles and universal resource locators (URL's) for websites (where the website is located on the world wide web).

MLA Citation FAQ

- **Caution:** Citations provided by citation generators are rarely 100% correct. Verify for accuracy.
- Indent one-half inch before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation (i.e. a hanging indent).
- Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June and July.
- Include all sources cited in your paper.
- The first letter of the first word in the title and the first letter of all major words are capitalized.
- All citations end with a period.
- Double space all lines within and between entries.

Examples provided on this handout are single spaced to save space.

Examples for Books

Book: One Author			
1 Author.	2 Title of source.	7 Publisher,	8 Publication date,
↓	↓	↓	↙
Howell, Georgina. <i>Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper Of Nations</i> . Farrar, 2006.			
Book: Multiple Authors			
Torrey, E. Fuller, and Michael B. Knable. <i>Surviving Manic Depression</i> . Basic Books, 2005.			
Note: If there are one, or two authors, use both names. List the second author in regular first name, last name order. If there are three or more authors, use only the first author and replace the remaining authors names with "et al."			
Book: Work in an Anthology			
Irving, Washington. "Rip Van Winkle." <i>Oxford Book of American Short Stories</i> , edited by Joyce Carol Oates, Oxford UP, 1992, pp. 18-32.			
Reference Book: Chapter or Article			
Edgren, Altha R., and Teresa G. Odle. "Diabetes Mellitus." <i>Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine</i> , edited by Jacqueline L. Longe, 4th ed., vol. 2, Gale, 2011, pp. 1155-60.			
eBook			
Mertig, Rita G. <i>What Nurses Know: Diabetes</i> , Demos Health, 2011. <i>eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)</i> .			
Reference eBook: Chapter or Article			
"Violence and Weapons." <i>Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law</i> , edited by Jeffrey Wilson, 2 nd ed., vol. 1, Gale, 2006, pp. 687-692. <i>Gale Virtual Reference Library</i> .			
eBook Chapter: Database (Reprint)			
Steffen, Lloyd. "Executions Are Only Just If They Meet Stringent Moral Conditions." <i>Executing Justice</i> , Pilgrim Press, 1998. Reprinted in <i>The Ethics of Capital Punishment</i> , edited by Nick Fisanick, Greenhaven, 2004. <i>Opposing Viewpoints In Context</i> .			

Examples for Databases

Database: Journal Article					
1 Author.	2 Title of source.	3 Title of container,	6 Number,	8 Publication date,	3 Title of container,
↓	↓	↓	↙	↙	↙
Plumer, Bradford. "Grand Canyon." <i>New Republic</i> , vol. 238, no. 4, 2008. <i>Academic Search Premier</i> .					
Database: Newspaper Article					
Hoffman, Jan. "Poisoned Web: Online Bullies Pull Schools into the Fray." <i>New York Times</i> , 28 June 2010. <i>ProQuest Newsstand</i> .					
Database Artemis Literary Sources: Reprint					
Walker, Pierre A. "Racial Protest, Identity, Words, and Form in Maya Angelou's <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> ." <i>College Literature</i> vol. 22, no. 3, 1995, Rp. 91-105. Reprinted in <i>Nonfiction Classics for Students: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Nonfiction Works</i> , edited by David M. Galens, et al. vol. 2, Gale, 2003. <i>Literature Resource Center</i> .					
Database Business Source Premier: Company Profile					
"Southwest Airlines Co.: Company Profile." <i>MarketLine</i> , 25 Oct. 2013. <i>Business Source Premier</i> .					
Database Credo					
"Arthritis." <i>Philip's Encyclopedia</i> . Philip's, 2008. <i>Credo</i> .					
Database Global Road Warrior					
Giess, Paul. "France: Country Snapshot." <i>Global Road Warrior: The Ultimate Guide to the World</i> , 1993-2014.					
Database Lexis Nexis Academic					
Landy, Heather, and Peter Whoriskey. "Corporate Survival Mode: Financial Crisis Prompting Mergers, Changing How Firms Operate." <i>Washington Post</i> , 27 Jan. 2009, pp. D1. <i>Lexis Nexis Academic</i> .					
Database Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Essay					
"Cyberbullying." <i>Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection</i> . Cengage Learning, 2012. <i>Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context</i> .					
Database Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Journal Article					
Munio, Neil. "Video Violence, Political Opportunities." <i>National Journal</i> , vol. 37, no. 33-35, 2005, pp. 2600-2601. <i>Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context</i> .					
Database Science Direct					
Chun, Jong A., et al. "Effect of Elevated Carbon Dioxide and Water Stress on Gas Exchange and Water Use Efficiency in Corn." <i>Agricultural and Forest Meteorology</i> , vol. 151, no. 3, 15 Mar. 2011, pp. 378-84. <i>Science Direct</i> .					
Database SIRS Issues Researcher					
"At Issue: Genetic Testing," ProQuest, 2014. <i>SIRS Issues Researcher</i> .					
Database VAST: Academic Video Online					
<i>Ice</i> . Produced by Matt Shelley. A&E Television Networks, 2010. <i>VAST: Academic Video Online</i> .					

Examples for Web Sites

<p>Web Site: No Author</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">2 Title of source.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">3 Title of container,</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">7 Publisher,</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">8 Publication date,</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">9 Location.</div> </div> <p>↓ ↓ ↓ ↘ ↘</p> <p>“Type 2 Diabetes.” <i>Mayo Clinic</i>, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 13 Jan. 2016, www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/type-2-diabetes/home/ovc-20169860.</p>
<p>Web Site: Author</p> <p>Kraizer, Shemyl. “It Is Not a Mystery.” <i>Coalition for Children</i>, 5 Feb. 2014, safechild.org/it-is-not-a-mystery/.</p>
<p>Web Site: Organization Author</p> <p>“Librarians.” <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i>, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17 Dec. 2015, www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm.</p>
<p>Web Site: Journal Article</p> <p>Carter, Patrick M. et al. “Firearm Possession Among Adolescents Presenting to an Urban Emergency Department for Assault.” <i>Pediatrics</i>, vol.132, no.2, 2 Aug. 2013, pp.1-9, doi: 10.1542/peds.2013-0163.</p>
<p>Web Site: Newspaper Article</p> <p>Turque, Bill. “Court: Maryland Has Been Illegally Double-Taxing Residents Who Pay Income Tax to Other States.” <i>The Washington Post</i>, 18 May 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/supreme-court-rules-maryland-income-tax-law-is-unconstitutional/2015/05/18/le92ee7a-dl6f-11e4-ab77-9646eea6a4c7_story.html.</p>

Examples for Other Sources

<p>Image: Commercial</p> <p><i>Notre Dame de Paris</i>, 2011, <i>City Pictures</i>.</p>
<p>Image: Personal</p> <p>Godwin, Elizabeth. <i>Portrait of My Best Friend</i>, 2012. Private collection.</p>
<p>Image: Database</p> <p>Frankenthaler, Helen. <i>Jacob’s Ladder</i>. 1957, Museum of Modern Art, New York. <i>Artstor</i>.</p>
<p>Interview</p> <p>Sargent, Margaret. Personal interview. 15 Feb. 2016.</p>
<p>Email</p> <p>Woodward, Julie. “Newborn FAQs.” Received by Robert Small. 21 May 2015.</p>
<p>Motion Picture/Video/DVD</p> <p><i>E²Design. Season Three: The Economics of Being Environmentally Conscious</i>. Directed by Tad Fettig, PBS Home Video, 2008.</p>
<p>YouTube Video</p> <p>Sapolsky, Robert. “Stanford’s Sapolsky on Depression and Its Origin.” <i>YouTube</i>, Stanford University, 3 Nov. 2009, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOAgplgTxfc.</p>
<p>Sound Recording</p> <p>Hudson, Jennifer. “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going.” <i>Dreamgirls: Music from the Motion Picture</i>, Sony BMG, 2006.</p>
<p>TED Talk</p> <p>Cuddy, Amy. “Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are.” <i>TED</i>, June 2012, https://www.ted.com/talks/amy-cuddy-your-body-language-shapes-who-you-are?language=en.</p>
<p>Blog Post</p> <p>Sisaye, Sarah. “Bullying Rates Drop.” <i>Stopbullying Blog</i>, 15 May 2015, www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/05/15/bullying-rates-drop.</p>

Documenting Sources in the Text of the Paper with In-Text Parenthetical Citations

When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with a parenthetical reference. Place the author's last name and the page number in parentheses after the material used as close as possible to the material being documented, preferably at the end of a sentence. When no author is available, use the shortest form of the title necessary to identify the work from your list of Works Cited and the page number. When no page number is available, cite the entire work. If the author's name appears in the text, it may be omitted from the parenthetical reference. Include the complete citation to the work in the list of works cited at the end of the paper.

The text would state: One suggestion to uncover disorders is that “a structured interview could be employed by staff at juvenile justice facilities for routine identification of potential behavioral health conditions” (Drerup et al. 126).

Or the text could state: According to Drerup, Croysdale and Hoffmann, “a structured interview could be employed by staff at juvenile justice facilities for routine identification of potential behavioral health conditions” (126).

The List of Works Cited would state:

Drerup, Lauren C. et al. “Patterns of Behavioral Health Conditions Among Adolescents in a Juvenile Justice System.” *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* vol. 39, no. 2, Apr. 2008, pp. 122-8. *PsycARTICLES*.

If there is no author: Begin the reference with the first word or two of the title. For example: (“Violence” 688).

If there is no page number: Cite the entire work (that is, do not include a page number). For example: (“Cyberbullying” Gale)

If the source is audio or video: Cite the relevant time or time range as displayed in your media reader. For example: (Sapolsky 00:03:16-17)

Your last name 1

Works Cited

“Cyberbullying.” National Crime Prevention Council, 2015, www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying.

“Cyberbullying.” *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*. Gale: Cengage Learning, 2010. *Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context*.

Drerup, Lauren C., et al. “Patterns of Behavioral Health Conditions Among Adolescents in a Juvenile Justice System.” *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, vol. 39, no.2, Apr. 2008, pp. 122-8. *PsycARTICLES*.

Leon, Chrysanthi S. “Sex Offender Punishment and the Persistence of Penal Harm in the U.S.” *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, vol. 34, no.3, 2011, pp. 177-85. *Science Direct*.

Leon, Chrysanthi S. “Should Courts Solve Problems? Connecting Theory and Practice.” *Criminal Law Bulletin* vol. 43, no. 6, 2007, pp. 879-99.

Torrey, E. Fuller, and Michael B. Knable. *Surviving Manic Depression*. Basic Books, 2005.

United States. Census Bureau. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2009*, GPO, 2008.

“Violence and Weapons.” *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*. Edited by Jeffrey Wilson, vol. 1., 2nded., Gale, 2006, pp. 687-92. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.