

MLA Guide (8th Edition)

Note: These reference guides do not take the place of assignment guidelines



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

All MLA Citations are written using the information in this graphic. This information should go in the same order.

1. Authors:

- One Author: Last name, First name
- Two authors: LastName, FirstName, and FirstName LastName
- Three or more authors: LastName, FirstName, et al.
- No author: Skip it and begin citation with title of work

2. Title of Source

- Standard Capitalization: All principal words are capitalized (which means everything except articles, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions)
- In quotations if it is part of a larger work
- In italics if it is a singular, independent work

- Ex. The title of a collection of essays or poems would be in *italics*, but the title of an essay or poem within that collection would be in "quotation marks"

3. Title of Container

- The larger container in which the piece you are citing is located
- For an anthology from which you cited a poem, the anthology is the larger container in which the poem can be found
- This is important because there can be multiple versions of a text, so the location where you found it is essential to knowing which version you used

4. Other Contributors

- Beyond the author(s) you already cited, are there other contributors to this work, such as editors, translators, directors, or narrators?
- For example: Edited by David Southard
- If there are several contributors, include the ones that are most relevant to your project or essay

5. Version

- Because there are multiple versions of some texts, it is important to note if you are using a particular version.
- Often, these sources will explicitly state that they are a particular version, such as an "Expanded ed.," an "Updated ed.," the "director's cut," or, when citing something like the Bible, the "Authorized King James Version."

6. Number

- For sources that are a part of a larger series, you must make sure to include the volume and issue number in your citation.
- To do so, you will abbreviate volume to "vol." and refer to the issue number as "no."
- For example: *Science*, vol. 12, no. 2, June 2016, pp. 23-27.

7. Publisher

- Look on the title page or copyright page of a text to find the publisher.
- If there are multiple publishers, cite the organization with the primary responsibility.

8. Publication Date

- If there is more than one publication date, cite the one that is either the most recent or the most relevant to your source.
- If the publication date includes the full date instead of just the year, then include the whole date.
- Cite dates as the day, month, and year. Example: **7 Apr. 2015**
- If you are citing something that has been republished, you may wish to also include the original publication date, if you have it. Example: Fischell, Kelsey. "How Cats Save Lives." **1998**. *A Collection of Essays on Cat Heroes*, edited by Savannah Jensen, Grumpy Cat Press, 2015, pp. 24-47.
- If you are citing an online source and it has no publication date, you should include the date of access at the end of your citation. Example: "Why Star Wars is a Greater Franchise than Star Trek." *The Cultural Impacts of the World's Greatest Films*. www.impactoffilm.com. **Accessed 4 July 2012**.

9. Location

- If applicable, include the page numbers of the source you are citing.
- If it is a single page, refer to it as **p. #**
- If you are citing multiple pages, refer to them as **pp. #-#**
- You should also include a DOI or a URL for online sources.
- A DOI (or Digital Object Identifier) is a letter and number series that links to the source. This allows people to find the source even if the URL changes. Example: **doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021**.
- When using a URL, you should remove the "http://" and start your URL with "www." Example: **www.hanshotfirst.com/proof**

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Examples

Citing a book

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. Spiegel & Grau, 2010.

Citing a work in a collection of essays

Southard, David. "Keys to Success." *Motivational Essays*, edited by Barbara Compagnucci. Squirrely Press, 2016, pp. 7-15.

Citing a film

Fischell, Kelsey, creator. *The Octopus King*, Mutant Enemy, 2005.

Citing a class lecture

Lucas, George. "Creating the Millennium Falcon." *Introduction to Star Wars Theory*, Summer 2016, Department of Film, Florida Gulf Coast University.

Citing a TED Talk on YouTube

Sivers, Derek. "How to Start a Movement." *TED*, Feb. 2010. *YouTube*, 1 Apr. 2010, www.youtube.com/watch?v=V74AxCqOTvg.

Citing a Page on a Website

Apayala, Ukiah. "The Lure of the Egyptian Mau." *Catstravaganza*, 23 Dec. 2015, www.catstravaganza.com/mau-mau23.

In-Text Citations

- Use the first piece of information given on the Works Cited page.
- If there is no author name, or if you have multiple sources by the same author, include a shortened version of the title in the in-text citation. Example: (Jensen, "Han Solo" 93) or ("Han Solo" 3).
- Tag each quotation, paraphrase, or summary with contextual information.
- Parenthetical citations look like this: (Author'sLastName PageNumber). Example: (Moore 193).
- In a short quotation, one that is four lines or less, the period for the sentence comes at the END of the parenthetical citation, NOT BEFORE.
- If there are no page numbers, you may cite paragraph numbers (par.), chapter numbers (ch. or chs.), or even section numbers (sec. or secs.) by including the appropriate abbreviation before the number. Example: (Jensen, par. 3).
- If you are citing a specific time in a source, such as a song or video, provide the hours, minutes, and then seconds separated by colons. Example: ("Han Solo" 01:12:23-27)

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