Documenting Sources: MLA Style
(8th Edition)

You must document your sources anytime that you use information that is not your own. We have provided examples of the most commonly used sources below, but you may need to adapt your citations as needed, or refer to the *MLA Handbook* for more complicated citations.

IN-TEXT DOCUMENTATION FORMAT

Note: Most electronic sources do not include page numbers from the original print version. If the source does provide them, page numbers should be at the end of the sentence in parentheses, otherwise use nothing at all.

Basic in-text citation with author signal phrase
Lister claims that "stained glass work is an act of meditation" (23).

Basic in-text citation with author's/authors' name/s in parentheses
Interest in rap music has become increasingly mainstream (Bliss and Thomas 75).

Source with no author and no page numbers
(Note: Use the first word or two of the title, ignoring initial articles. Titles will be in quotation marks or italicized, depending on how they appear in the works cited list.)
Colonial house plans often included traditional designs and methods ("Architectural").

Indirect source (source within a source) (secondary source with three or more authors)
Taylor has noted "several discrepancies in twin studies of the past" (qtd. in Thomas et al. 56).

WORKS CITED ELEMENTS

- **MLA refers to this as a container.**

- **Container = Parts of a Citation + Punctuation).**

1 Author.	individuals, artists, organization/corporate author (if different from publisher)
2 Title of source.	book titles, article titles, Web document titles, poems, short stories
3 Title of container,	anthologies, reference books, periodicals, Web sites
4 Other contributors,	editors, translators, directors, illustrators, performers
5 Version,	edition
6 Number,	one volume in a numbered set, periodical volume and issue numbers
7 Publisher,	book/e-book publishers, Web site publisher (if different from site name)
8 Publication date,	full date as found on source
9 Location.	article page numbers, URLs, DOIs

(Note: The item you are citing may include a container nested inside a larger container, such as a journal article found in a database. Add any applicable elements 3-9 from the above list to the end of the citation to account for the second container.) From MLA: https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/

WORKS CITED FORMAT

General Formatting Tips

A works cited list should begin on a new page and be double-spaced. Each entry/citation in the list should be alphabetized by the last name of the first author listed. If no author, alphabetize by the first word of the title other than *A*, *An*, or *The*. When citing a complete date, all months but May, June, and July are abbreviated. If a date range, like 2011-2016, is given, use the range.

Note about works cited elements: In general, if an element is missing, it can be excluded from the citation.

Note about URLs: The *MLA Handbook* recommends the use of **DOIs** (digital object identifier) or permalinks/bookmarks for items retrieved from databases (look for a **Permalink, Bookmark, Shared URL**, etc.). It does <u>not</u> explain what to do if there is no DOI or permalink. In that case, the Library recommends using the URL for the database up to the .com (for example, search.proquest.com).

Books

Book by a single author

Phillips, Dee. *How to Communicate: Gender Differences at Work*. Viking, 2016.

eBooks (Example shows two authors)

Johnson, Emily K., and Betty J. Friedman. *A History of Women Artists*. Thompson, 2009. *ebrary*,

   site.ebrary.com/lib/carrollcc/detail.action?docID=10688649.

(<u>Note</u>: In this example the book is "self-contained" and ebrary is the second container.)

Book by three or more authors

Stambaugh, Alan Q., et al. *The CIA: An Unauthorized History*. Hartwick UP, 2015.

Book by an unknown author (or the organization/corporate author is also the publisher)

Heart Disease. 5th ed., American Heart Association, 2014.

Work in an anthology

Spencer, Mark, Jr. "The Fifth Column." *Collected Science Fiction Stories,* edited by Katie Spooner and Lynn Nord,

   4th ed., Pluto, 2012, pp. 315-25.

Article in a reference book from a database

Huang, Jeannie S. "Body Image." *Encyclopedia of Obesity*, edited by Betina Smith, 2nd ed., vol. 2, Gale, 2011, pp.

   250-58. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCX2587500656&v=

   2.1&u=cccl_main&it=r&p=GVRL&sw=w&asid=33f80ebdb30d3ca30f59aebce37affa8.

(<u>Note</u>: The URL above is a permalink found in the database.)

Periodicals (Journals, Magazines, & Newspapers)

PDF versions of articles show original page numbers but usually do not show the database name, which is required in MLA style. Record the name of the database on the PDF printout. Non-PDF articles usually show paging information somewhere on the database retrieval page.

Article with two authors from a database

Fair, Eleanor, and Lola Sinclair. "Native American Art: Historical Perspectives." *Art in America,* vol. 90, no. 6,

Spring 2014, pp. 35-55. *Academic Search Premier*, doi:10.1093/ohr/ohw012.

(<u>Note</u>: The DOI could also be expressed as a URL: dx.doi.org/10.1093/ohr/ohw012. Either form is correct. If there is no DOI, look for a link for the Permalink, Bookmark, Shared URL, etc. The MLA Handbook does <u>not</u> explain what to do if there is no DOI or permalink. In that case, the Library recommends using the URL for the database up to the .com.)

Article with no author from the Internet

"West Virginia Floods Cause 23 Deaths and Vast Wreckage." *The New York Times*, 24 June 2016,

www.nytimes.com/2016/06/25/us/west-virginia-floods.html.

Other Database Content (Essays, Reference Book Articles, etc.)

Viewpoint essay from *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* database

Newhoff, David. "Copyright Must Be Protected on the Internet." *Cybercrime*, edited by Noel Merino, Greenhaven

Press, 2016. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, ic.galegroup.com.

(<u>Note</u>: If a permalink is extremely long, use the URL up to the domain, such as .com, .org, etc.)

Article in a reference book from *Literature Resource Center* database

"Overview: *Pride and Prejudice*." *Novels for Students*, edited by Diane Telgen, vol. 1, Gale, 1998. *Literature*

Resource Center, go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1430001592&v=2.1&u=cccl_mainlitrc

&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=49d24fe48109d5edb492f92dfb0d7566.

General Web Sites

Web site with author (and the publisher is different from the Web site title)

Stambaugh, Larry, and Angeline Davies. "Scribe Statues." *Ancient Egyptian Art*, Art Research Institute, 2015,

www.ari.org/seated-scribes.html.

Corporate / Organization / Government Web site with no personal author

"Bipolar Disorder." *National Institute of Mental Health*, Apr. 2016, www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/bipolar-

disorder/index.shtml.

(Note: A publisher's name may be omitted from the citation when a Web site's title and the name of its publisher are essentially the same.)

"Electrical and Electronics Engineers." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2016-17 ed., United States, Department of

Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17 Dec. 2015, www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/electrical-

andelectronics-engineers.htm.

Misc Sources

Personal interview

Smith, Jesse. Personal interview. 31 May 2016.

Images

Biologist taking samples. *Biology in Action*, www.bioaction.org. Image.

(Note: In this example the author, date, and title of the image are unknown. When a source is untitled, make up a generic description for it. Capitalize the first word and any proper nouns in the description. Do not italicize or enclose in quotation marks.)

Streaming video

"How to Paint a Landscape." *YouTube,* uploaded by Rebecca Kronenfeld, 20 June 2016, www.youtube.com/

watch?v=qxUzGqHEUmkmko.

"Greco-Roman Art." *The Evolution of Art*, 1999. *Films on Demand,* ezproxy1.carrollcc.edu/

login?url=http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=106200&xtid=10505&loid=34810.

(Note: This is a segment of a film found in the Films on Demand database with a permalink URL.)

This handout adapted from:

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., Modern Language Association, 2016.

Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *Rules for Writers*. 8th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.