

MLA Citation Style

This handout is derived from the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook*. For any citation information not provided on this handout, please refer to that text at <http://style.mla.org>.

In-Text Citation

In MLA style, you need to include the authors and the page number of an in-text citation when you cite or paraphrase a source. If the source does not have page numbers, then just put the author.

Author Mentioned in Text: *Quotation:* As Chang mentions in his article, “same-sex adult couples can now get married and have their marriages recognized in every state” (2105).

Paraphrase: Chang compares black and LGBT discrimination prevention laws, and poses the question of whether or not narrowly defined discrimination legitimizes inequality (2133).

Author Not Mentioned in Text: Only following the Supreme Court opinion in the court case *Lawrence v. Texas* was homosexuality decriminalized in the United States (Chang 2136).

Co-Authors: Inherent safety design has long been used in creating new petrochemical plants, but now the use its use in plants that are being remodeled/expanded is growing in importance (McCarthy and Miller 3).

Three or More Authors: The law thinks of intellectual property rights as a way to encourage creators, but “in the public mind, the primary objective of intellectual property law is to prevent plagiarism” (Mandel et al. 917).

Citation with no Author: A committee in China says that “Local people’s governments...shall take measures to strengthen leadership over the work of national common spoken and written language” (“Measures” 305).

The Core Elements

In MLA style, citations can be created by looking for certain information and organizing it. This information is known as the **core elements**. Locating the core elements, then putting them together, *separating them by the punctuation shown in the image*, and writing them out will create a Works Cited citation for a given source.

The **author** is the person(s) or organization that wrote the source. Omit if the author is the same as the publisher. The **title of source** is what the source is called. The **title of container** is where the source is from. If the source is a work in a book, the container would be the title of the book; if it’s a news article on a website, the container would be the website. *There might be more than one container.* For instance, if you found an article (source) from a newspaper (container one) on an online database (container two). In this case, order the containers from smallest to largest, putting the second container before the location. **Other contributors** refer to people other than the author who put together the work. This can include an editor, translator, or director.

Version is only used if the work you are citing has been released in multiple forms or editions. **Number** is used primarily to refer to periodicals. Journal articles frequently have both a volume (vol.) and a number (no.) which

you would put here. The **Publisher** is the organization that produced the work. A publisher can be a book publishing company, a film studio, or other organization. The **publication date** is the date when the source was published. Finally, the **location** is where the source is found, generally the page numbers or URL where the work is located. A journal article retrieved from the database may have two locations—the pages in the journal that the original article was printed in and a URL. In that case, put the pages after the publication date and the URL after the second container.

Not all sources will have all this information. Look closely for this information, but if you cannot find a piece of information for a source, then move on to the next core element.

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

Sample Works Cited

The Works Cited list is a separate double-spaced page located at the end of the paper. Citations should be alphabetized by the first word of an entry. Each citation should have a hanging indent, meaning that there is no indentation on the first line, but the second and following lines are indented 0.5". After taking note of all core elements, use that information to construct the Works Cited page. Below are some examples.

Print Sources:

Book by a Single Author:

Damjanov, Ivan. *Pathology for the Health Professions*. 3rd ed, Elsevier Health Sciences, 2005.

Article or Chapter in an Edited Book:

Amerman, Erin C. "Peripheral and Autonomic Nervous System." *Exploring Anatomy and Physiology in the Lab*, 2nd ed., Morton Publishing, 2013, pp. 327-356.

Article in a Scholarly Journal:

Condcrasky, Margarit et al. "Opinions, Knowledge, and Current Practices of Culinary Arts Instructors and Professionals in Regards to Healthy Food." *Journal of Culinary Science & Technology*, vol. 13, no. 4, 2015, pp. 287-302,
EBSCO, <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=108756960&site=ehost-live>.

Electronic Sources:

Article from a Library Database:

Albdiry, M.T., and M.F. Almensory. "Failure Analysis of Drillstring in Petroleum Industry: A Review." *Engineering Failure Analysis*, vol. 65, July 2016, pp. 74-85,
EBSCO, <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=114628877&site=ehost-live>.

Article in a Newspaper or Magazine:

Painter, Kim. "Why Your Medical Condition May Be Named After a Food." *USA TODAY*, 9 July 2014, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/07/09/medical-food-names/12401785/>.
Goldstein, Andrew. "Better Than a Nursing Home?" *Time Magazine*, 12 Aug. 2001, <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1000517,00.html>.

Source on a Website (publisher as author and person as author):

"Colon Cancer." *Overview*. Mayo Clinic, 23 Feb. 2016, <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/colon-cancer/home/ovc-20188216>.
Giorgi, Anna. "What is a Polysomnography?" *Polysomnography*, ed. Steve Kim, M.D., Healthline, 26 Jan. 2016, <http://www.healthline.com/health/polysomnography#Overview1>.

E-book:

Mill, John Stuart. *Considerations of Representative Government*. Project Gutenberg, 6 Feb. 2013, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5669/5669-h/5669-h.htm>.