MLA Style Citations, 8th ed.  
(Modern Languages Association)

This guide provides basic guidelines and examples for citing sources using the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th ed. (2016).

MLA citation style requires that credit be given to sources in the text of an essay with parenthetical references. General guidelines for parenthetical references appear on the last page of this guide. Also, while the following examples are single-spaced, the Works Cited page should be double-spaced throughout.

| Book: One Author | Format: 
Author Last, First. *Title*. Publisher, Year of Pub.  
Sample Citation: 
| --- | --- |
| Book: Two Authors | Format: 
Author Last, First, and First Last. *Title*. Publisher, Year of Pub.  
Sample Citation: 
| Book: Multiple Authors | Format: 
Author Last, First, Author First Last, and Author First Last. *Title*. Publisher, Year of Pub.  
[Note: If a source has three or more authors, only the first author should be listed, followed by the Latin phrase "et al." ]  
Sample Citation: 
| Electronic Book | Format: 
Author Last, First. *Title*. Location of Publisher: Publisher, Year of Pub.  
Electronic Publisher, URL.  
Sample Citation: 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author Last, First. &quot;Title of Chapter/Article.&quot; <em>Title of Book</em>, edited by First Last, Publisher, Year of Pub., pp. Inclusive page numbers.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Reference Books (Print) | Format: | Author of Specific Entry Last Name, First. "Title of Entry." *Title of Book*, edited by First Last, Publisher, Year of Pub., p. or pp. Inclusive page numbers. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Reference Books (online) | Format: | Author of Specific Entry Last Name, First. "Title of Entry." *Title of Resource or Site.* Year of Pub., URL. |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Reference Books (in a full-text database) | Format: | Author of Specific Entry Last Name, First. "Title of Entry." *Title of Book*, edited by First Last Name of editor if necessary. Edition information if available, Volume if available, Publisher, Year of Publication. *Database Name*, URL. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Graphic Novel | Format: | Author Last, First. *Title.* Illus. First Last. Location of Publisher: Publisher, Year of Publication. |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Sample Citation:** | Ames, Jonathan. *The Alcoholic.* Illustrated by Dean Haspiel. Vertigo, 2009. |
## Journals

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Journal Article: Print</th>
<th>Format:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author Last, First. &quot;Title.&quot; <em>Journal Name</em>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Journal Article: Multiple Authors</th>
<th>Format:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author Last, First, and Author First Last. &quot;Title.&quot; <em>Journal Name</em>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Journal Article: Published Only Online</th>
<th>Format:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author Last, First. &quot;Title.&quot; <em>Journal Name</em>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers, URL.</td>
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<th>Journal Article: from a Full-Text Database</th>
<th>Format:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author Last, First. &quot;Title.&quot; <em>Journal Name</em>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers. <em>Database Name</em>, URL.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>[Note: Internet URLs, doi numbers, and stable URLs are all appropriate options to show the location of an electronic text. Choose the option that gives the reader easiest access.]</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Magazines

**Magazine Article: Print**

- **Format:**
  Author Last, First. "Title." *Magazine Name*, Day Month Year of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.

- **Sample Citation:**

**Magazine Article: Multiple Authors**

- **Format:**
  Author Last, First, and Author First Last. "Title." *Magazine Name*, Day Month Year of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.

- **Sample Citation:**

**Magazine Article: Online**

- **Format:**
  Author Last, First. "Title." *Magazine Name* Day Month Year of Pub, URL.

- **Sample Citation:**

**Magazine Article from a Full-Text Database**

- **Format:**
  Author Last, First. "Title." *Magazine Name* Day Month Year of Pub, inclusive page numbers if available. *Database Name*, URL.

- **Sample Citation:**

### Newspapers

**Newspaper Article: Print**

- **Format:**
  Author Last, First. "Article Title." *Newspaper Name*, Day Month Year of Publication, edition if necessary, pp. inclusive page numbers.

- **[Note]:** If a newspaper article begins on a page and ends on another page later in the issue, it is sufficient to write the first page on which the article appears followed by the plus (+) sign.

- **Sample Citation:**
# Newspaper Article: Online

**Format:**

Author Last, First. "Article Title." *Newspaper Name*, Day Month Year of Publication, URL.

**Sample Citation:**


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# Newspaper Article: from a Full-Text Database

**Format:**

Author Last, First. "Title." *Newspaper Name*, Day Month Year of Publication, pp. page numbers. *Database Name*, URL.

**Sample Citation:**


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# Letters to the Editor

**Format:**

Author Last, First. Letter. *Newspaper Name*, Day Month Year of Publication, pp. inclusive page numbers.

**Sample Citation:**


**Sample Citation of an Editorial in a Full-Text Database:**


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# Electronic Sources

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# Multi-Page Internet Site: Site as a Whole

**Format:**

Author Last, First. *Title of Site*. Day Month Year of Publication, URL.

**[Note on Publication Date]:** The publication date for a whole site may be a single year or may show a range of years during which time the site has been updated. **Note on Access Date:** If content at a website is revised regularly, you can choose to include the date of access. See sample.

**Sample Citation:**


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# Multi-Page Internet Site: Single Page

**Format:**

Author Last, First. "Title of Page." *Title of Site*. Day Month Year of Publication, URL.

**Sample Citation:**

### Multi-Page Internet Site: Corporate Author

**Format:**
Corporate Author Name. *Title of Site*. Day Month Year of Publication, URL.

**Sample Citation:**

### E-mail

**Format:**
Author Last, First. "Title of Email." Received by First Name Last of Receiver. Day Month Year of Message.

**Sample Citation:**

### Government Publication

**Format:**
Government name. Name of agency, dept., etc. *Title of Publication*. Publisher, Year of Pub.

**[Note: Information about the Congress number, session, and additional identification regarding the type of document may be included at the end of the citation. See sample.]**

**Sample Citation:**

### Personal Interviews

**Format:**
Interviewee Last, First. Type of Interview. Day Month Year of Interview.

**Sample Citations:**
Welch, Kathleen E. Personal interview. 14 Aug. 2007.


Welch, Kathleen E. E-mail interview. 14 Aug. 2007.

### Images from a Database

**Format:**

**[Note: Due to the lack of information for individual images found on the Internet, it is often best to cite the page where the image was located. Use the citation guidelines for "Multi-page Internet Site: Single Page."]**

**Sample Citation:**
In-Text Parenthetical References in MLA Style

MLA citation style requires that writers cite a source within the text of their essay at the end of the sentence in which the source is used. The parenthetical reference should be inserted after the last quotation mark but before the period at the end of the sentence.

General Form: (Author Last Name Page #)

Example: (Smith 42)

If two quotations from different sources are used in the same sentence, the parenthetical reference associated with a particular quote should be placed as close to the quotation as possible without interrupting the flow of the sentence.

If a paragraph includes several quotations from a single source, a single parenthetical reference may be placed at the end of the paragraph. Page numbers should be included for each quotation organized by placement in the paragraph. In the following example, a writer has cited two quotations from Smith in the same paragraph without another source cited in between the two uses. The two quotations in the paragraph came from page 43 and 12.

Example: (Smith 43, 12)

If the author is included more than once on the Works Cited page, the following form should be used. Note that the format of the title on the Works Cited sheet should be mirrored in the parenthetical reference (i.e., if the title is italicized on the Works Cited page, then the title fragment should be italicized in the parenthetical reference).

General Form: (Author Last, "Title Fragment" Page #) or (Author Last, Title Fragment Page #)

Examples: (Smith, "Who Moved" 42) or (Smith, Big Changes 172)

The following examples illustrate format for texts that have more than one named author:

Two Authors: (Johnson and Smith 244)

Three or More Authors: (Johnson, et al. 244)

If there is no author, a title fragment should be used to make a connection between the use of the source and the citation for the source on the Works Cited page.

General Form: ("Title Fragment" Page #) or (Title Fragment Page #)

Examples: ("Library Links" 13) or (Building a Bookshelf 42)

If page numbers are not available for a source (particularly electronic sources), there is no need to include a number.

For other considerations, see the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th ed. (pp. 116-28).