



MLA Style Citations, 9th ed. (Modern Languages Association)

This guide provides basic guidelines and examples for citing sources using the *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed. (2021).

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.

AI – Artificial Intelligence

AI-Generated Text or Responses (e.g., ChatGPT)

Notes

- Do not treat the AI tool as an author
- Acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words)

Citing AI Text

Format:

“Description of what was generated” prompt. *AI tool*, version, Publisher, Date generated, URL for tool or sharable link.

Sample Citation (Works Cited):

“How does symbolism contribute to the theme of the *The Handmaid’s Tale*” prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 3 March. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

In text: (“How does symbolism”)

Citing Visual AI Works:

Format:

“Description of what was generated” prompt. *AI tool*, version, Publisher, Date generated, URL for tool or sharable link.

Example:

[Image]

Fig. 1. “Painting of a cat lying on a stack of books” prompt, *DALL-E*, version 2, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, labs.openai.com/.

Books

Book: One Author

Format:

Author Last, First. *Title*. Publisher, Year of Pub.

Sample Citation:

Welch, Kathleen E. *Electric Rhetoric: Classical Rhetoric, Oralism, and a New Literacy*. MIT Press, 1999.

<p>Book: Two Authors</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First, and First Last. <i>Title</i>. Publisher, Year of Pub.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Lunsford, Andrea, and Lisa Ede. <i>Singular Texts/Plural Authors: Perspectives on Collaborative Writing</i>. Southern Illinois UP, 1990.</p>
<p>Book: Multiple Authors</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First, Author First Last, and Author First Last. <i>Title</i>. Publisher, Year of Pub.</p> <p>[Note: If a source has three or more authors, only the first author should be listed, followed by the Latin phrase “et al.”]</p> <p>Sample Citation: Gray, Joseph R., et al. <i>How Brown Johnson and Kirk Got It Wrong</i>. Ellsworth, 2005.</p>
<p>E-Book</p>	<p>Format: Last Name, First Name. <i>Title of Book</i>. E-book, Publisher, Publication Date.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Clause, Bonnie T. <i>Edward Hopper in Vermont</i>. E-Book, UP of New England, 2012.</p>
<p>Chapter in a Book</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title of Chapter/Article." <i>Title of Book</i>, edited by First Last, Publisher, Year of Pub., pp. Inclusive page numbers.</p> <p>[Note: Use “pp.” before inclusive page numbers. Use “p.” if the text resides on only one page.]</p> <p>Sample Citation: Wells, Ida B. "Lynch Law in All Its Phases." <i>With Pen and Voice: A Critical Anthology of Nineteenth-Century African-American Women</i>, edited by Shirley Wilson Logan, Southern Illinois UP, 1995, pp. 80-99.</p>
<p>Encyclopedia s, Dictionaries, Reference Books (Print)</p>	<p>Format: Author of Specific Entry Last Name, First. "Title of Entry." <i>Title of Book</i>, edited by First Last, Publisher, Year of Pub., p. or pp. Inclusive page numbers.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Garner, John S. "Grain Elevator." <i>Encyclopedia of 20th-Century Architecture</i>, edited by R. Stephen Sennott, Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004, pp. 537-8.</p>
<p>Encyclopedia s, Dictionaries, Reference Books (online)</p>	<p>Format: Author of Specific Entry Last Name, First. "Title of Entry." <i>Title of Resource or Site</i>. Year of Pub., URL.</p> <p>Sample Citation: "Kingdom." <i>Merriam-Webster</i>. 2015, http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kingdom.</p>

**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 Name First Last Name of editor if necessary. Edition information if available, Volume if available, Publisher, Year of Publication. *Database Name*, URL.

Sample Citation:

Andrew, William. "Slave Narratives." *Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History*, edited by Colin A. Palmer. 2nd ed., vol. 5, Macmillan Reference, 2006. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&sw=w&u=txshracd2584&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CCX3444701159&it=r&asid=3116d85d9e8243071e3b2e54fa1e3908>.

Format:

Author Last, First (if available). "Title of Entry." *Title of Resource or Site*, Year of Pub., URL.

Sample Citation:

"Kingdom." *Oxford English Dictionary*, Oxford University Press, 2016, <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/103519>.

**Graphic
Novel**

Format:

Author Last, First. *Title*. Illus. First Last. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Sample Citation:

Ames, Jonathan. *The Alcoholic*. Illustrated by Dean Haspiel. Vertigo, 2009.

Journals

**Journal
Article: Print**

Format:

Author Last, First. "Title." *Journal Name*, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.

Sample Citation:

Haraway, Donna J. "A Game of Cat's Cradle: Science Studies, Feminist Theory, Cultural Studies." *Configurations*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1994, pp. 59-71.

**Journal
Article:
Multiple
Authors**

Format:

Author Last, First, and Author First Last. "Title." *Journal Name*, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.

[**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:

Gautreau, Ronald, and Jeffrey M. Cohen. "Birth and Death of a Black Hole." *American Journal of Physics*, vol. 65, no. 5, May 1997, pp. 444-6.

Pridmore, William, et al. "A Test of Competing Hypotheses About Homicide Following Terrorist Attacks: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis of September 11 and Oklahoma City." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 24, Dec. 2008, pp. 381-96.

<p>Journal Article: Published Only Online</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title." <i>Journal Name</i>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers, URL.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Jobe, Karen D. "Women and the Language of Hackerdom: The Gendered Nature of Hacker Jargon." <i>Kairos</i>, vol. 5, no. 2, 2000, http://technorhretoric.net/5.2/coverweb/jobewomen&hackerdom.htm.</p>
<p>Journal Article: from a Full-Text Database</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title." <i>Journal Name</i>, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers. <i>Database Name</i>, URL.</p> <p>[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.]</p> <p>Sample Citation: Ferrell, Robert H. "Truman's Place in History." <i>Reviews in American History</i>, vol. 18, no. 1, Mar. 1990, pp. 1-9. <i>JSTOR</i>, doi:10.2307/2702718.</p>

Magazines

<p>Magazine Article: Print</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title." <i>Magazine Name</i>, Day Month Year of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Swartz, Mimi. "An Enron Yard Sale." <i>New Yorker</i>, 6 May 2002, pp. 50-2.</p>
<p>Magazine Article: Multiple Authors</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First, and Author First Last. "Title." <i>Magazine Name</i>, Day Month Year of Pub, pp. inclusive page numbers.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Silver, Marc, and James M. Pethokoukis. "Attack of the Cloned Light Sabers." <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>, 13 May 2002, p. 63.</p>
<p>Magazine Article: Online</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title." <i>Magazine Name</i> Day Month Year of Pub, URL.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Leonard, Andrew. "Embracing the Dark Side of the Brand." <i>Salon</i>, 18 May 2005, http://www.salon.com/2005/05/18/star_wars_lego/.</p>
<p>Magazine Article from a Full-Text Database</p>	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title." <i>Magazine Name</i> Day Month Year of Pub, inclusive page numbers if available. <i>Database Name</i>, URL.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Swartz, Mimi. "An Enron Yard Sale." <i>New Yorker</i>, 6 May 2002, pp. 50-2. <i>Literature Resource Center</i>; http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=LitRC&sw=w&u=txshracd2584&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA94158059&it=r&asid=a8753b9d9dc41514cc4e751ef786cf29.</p>

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:

Lewin, Tamar. "SAT Essay Scores Are In, But Will They Be Used?"
New York Times, 15 May 2005, late ed., p. A22.

Newspaper Article: Online

Format:

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

Sample Citation:

Swindler, Samantha. "Central Library Brings a Social Worker On Board."
Oregonian, 19 May 2016, http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2016/05/central_library_brings_a_socia.html.

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:

Malik, Alia. "Northside and Uvalde Teachers Win Trinity Prize for Excellence."
San Antonio Express-News, 30 Apr. 2016, pp. B1+. *Newsbank*,
<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/resources/doc/nb/news/15CA16F240CB04A8?p=AWNB>.

Letters to the Editor

Format:

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

Sample Citation:

Davies, Deborah D. Letter. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 16 May 2005, p. B4.

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

Bogin, Ruth. Letter. *New York Times*, 27 June 1976, p. 262. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*,
www.proquest.com.

Electronic Sources

Multi-Page Internet Site: Site as a Whole	<p>Format: Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). <i>Name of Site</i>. Version number (if available), Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher, if available), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).</p> <p>Sample Citation: Lepage, Denis. <i>Avibase: The World Bird Database</i>. 2005, http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/avibase.jsp?lang=EN. Accessed 23 July 2022.</p>
Multi-Page Internet Site: Single Page	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title of Page." <i>Name of Site</i>. Version number (if available), Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher, if available), date of resource creation (if available), URL. Date of access (if applicable).</p> <p>Sample Citation: Bartonico, Michelle. "Trinity University Faculty Rank Among Best in the Nation." <i>Trinity.edu</i>, 28 Sept. 2016, https://new.trinity.edu/news/trinity-university-faculty-rank-among-best-nation. Accessed 23 July 2022.</p>

E-mail	<p>Format: Author Last, First. "Title of Email." Received by First Name Last of Receiver. Day Month Year of Message.</p> <p>Sample Citation: Miller, Barbara. "Re: Education Statistics." Received by Meredith Elsik, 25 Jan. 2005.</p>
YouTube Video	<p>Format: "Title of video." <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Channel Name, Date of upload, URL.</p> <p>Sample Citation: "Stay Safe from COVID-19: Get a COVID-19 Shot." <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 11 Aug. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5dJd7Ld8Sc.</p>
Movies	<p>Format: <i>Title of Movie</i>. Contributor(s), Publisher/Production Company(s), Year of Release.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Contributor(s) may include directors, performers, writers, or others who are relevant to your analysis.</p> <p>Sample Citations: <i>Moonlight</i>. Directed by Barry Jenkins, A24 / Plan B Entertainment / Pastel Productions, 2016. <i>Moonlight</i>. Directed by Barry Jenkins, performances by Trevante Rhodes and André Holland, A24 / Plan B Entertainment / Pastel Productions, 2016.</p> <p>In-text Parenthetical Citation: (<i>Moonlight</i> 00:01:23–00:04:56)</p>

Other

Government Publication	<p>Format: Government name. Name of agency, dept., etc. <i>Title of Publication</i>. Publisher, Year of Pub.</p> <p>[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.]</p> <p>Sample Citation: United States. Congress. Senate. Select Committee on Intelligence. <i>Loss of National Security Information at the Los Alamos National Laboratory</i>. Government Printing Office, 2001. 106th Congress, 2nd session.</p>
Personal Interviews	<p>Format: Interviewee Last, First. Type of Interview. Day Month Year of Interview.</p> <p>Sample Citations: Welch, Kathleen E. Personal interview. 14 Aug. 2007.</p> <p>Welch, Kathleen E. Telephone interview. 14 Aug. 2007.</p> <p>Welch, Kathleen E. E-mail interview. 14 Aug. 2007.</p>
Images from a Database	<p>Format: Artist name. Title of image. Date of creation. Housing Institution, Housing City (if applicable). <i>Name of website/database</i>, URL. Date of access.</p> <p>[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.”]</p> <p>Sample Citation: Caro, Anthony. <i>Early One Morning</i>. 1962. Tate Gallery, London. <i>ARTstor</i>, http://library.artstor.org/library/secure/ViewImages/id=8CJGczI9NzldLS1WEDhzTnkrX3ovfl10cS4%3D&userId=hzFD&zoomparams=. Accessed 23 July 2022.</p>

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 in lieu of a name. Title fragments should be formatted in the same way that the title is formatted on the Works Cited sheet.

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 in the parenthetical reference.

For other considerations, see the *MLA Handbook* 9th ed. or OWL Purdue.