MLA In-Text Citation and “Works Cited” Entries

Citation Basics:
I. Elements of MLA Citations p. 2
II. In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Documentation) p. 3-4
III. Citation Abbreviations p. 5

Citation Examples for “Works Cited” List
I. Books p. 6-8
   A. Books (in their entirety) p.6-7
   B. Parts of Books p. 8
II. E-books p. 9
III. Articles (from a print publication) p. 10
IV. Web Sources (including articles found in databases) p. 11-14
   A. Works from the Free Web p.11-12
   B. Works from Databases p. 13-14
V. Media p. 15
VI. Images p. 16
VII. Government Publications p. 17
VIII. Interviews p. 18
IX. Digital Files (independent from the Web) p. 19

For complete explanations, refer to the MLA Handbook:

Copies are available: in LaGuardia Reference at REF LB2369 .G53 2009; and
on Reserve behind the Circulation desk -- request by title.

NOTE: Numbers in sections below refer to MLA Handbook rule numbers.

Updated April 2011
Citation Basics

I. Elements of MLA Citations

Note: Spacing in this graphic is not standard. All MLA papers and Works Cited lists should be double-spaced.
II. In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Documentation)

MLA Style requires brief citation information to be included in the text of the paper or in parentheses following a quotation, summary, or paraphrase. Complete bibliographical information is given only once, in the bibliography called “Works Cited” on a separate page, at the end of the paper.

In-text citations must match the initial element of the item in the “Works Cited” list.

The table below gives examples of the most common in-text citations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Examples of text and in-text citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author is quoted or paraphrased but not named in the text.</td>
<td>It may be true that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance . . .” (Robertson 136).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author is quoted or paraphrased and is named in the text.</td>
<td>Sigmund Freud states that a “dream is a fulfillment of a wish” (154).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quoted work has no page numbers.</td>
<td>Smith developed the argument in his 1997 book (185-91).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>Modern researchers now accept the principle that dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes, Sleep 184). But investigation has shown that young children’s dreams are in general “rather simple and unemotional” (Foulkes, “Dreams” 78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A work with two or three authors is quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>For all their efforts to generalize about child behavior, psychologists recognize that “no two children are exactly alike” (Gesell and Ilg 68).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A work with more than three authors is quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>“The research . . . challenges the notions of ‘readiness’ that prevailed in education for much of the 20th century” (Whitmore et al. 298).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A work with no author (listed by title) is quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>A New York Times editorial called Ralph Ellison “a writer of universal reach” (“Death” A18).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Works Cited


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Examples of text and in-text citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A work by an agency or corporation is quoted or paraphrased.  
(MLA Handbook, 6.4.5) | The State Department’s travel advisory “strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State” (U.S. Dept. of State. Bureau).  

*or*  
The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs “strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State.” *(no parenthetical citation required)*  

Works Cited  
*(NOTE: To avoid a very long in-text citation, use the full name of the agency or corporation in the sentence.)* |
| A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased.  
(MLA Handbook, 5.7.7) | In an interview with Stephanie Arkin, I found that she and her friends “feel that teenagers today aren’t motivated to *do* anything. They just hang around.” *(no parenthetical citation required)*  

*or*  
Most older people seem to “feel that teenagers today aren’t motivated to *do* anything. They just hang around” (Arkin).  

Works Cited  
| A poem is quoted.  
(MLA Handbook, 3.7.3, 6.4.8) | In Robert Frost’s poem “The Death of the Hired Man,” one character describes home as “the place where, when you have to go there / They have to let you in” (lines 118-19). |
| A play with act, scene, and line numbers is quoted.  
(MLA Handbook, 3.7.2, 6.4.8)  
*****  
Any quotation of more than four lines.  
(MLA Handbook, 3.7.2) | Shakespeare’s famous metaphor on the meaning of life appears in the last act of *Macbeth*:  
Out, out, brief candle!  
Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing. (5.5.23-28)  

Works Cited  
*(NOTE: A quotation of more than four lines, whether poetry or prose, is indented one inch from left margin, has no quotations marks, and has parenthetical citation after the last period.)* |
| Quoting an indirect source (a quoted quote)  
(MLA Handbook 6.4.7) | The critic Susan Aikens has argued on behalf of what she calls "canonical multiplicity" (qtd. in Mayers 677).  

The “Works Cited” list will include an entry for Mayers but not for Aikens. |
III. Citation Abbreviations *(MLA Handbook, 7)*


No Pagination: *Use n. pag.* *(MLA Handbook, 5.6.3, 5.5.24)*

No Publisher: *Use N.p. (used mostly for Web sources)* *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.24)*

No Date: *Use n.d.* *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.24)*

Publisher Names: *Almost always shortened.*

*Examples:*
Government Printing Office: *use GPO*
Harry N. Abrams: *use Abrams*
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: *use Harcourt*
Cambridge University Press: *use Cambridge UP*

Edition: *Use ed.* *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.13)*

Editor or Edited by: *Use ed. (lower case) when citing an entire work that has only one editor listed on the title page of the book*

*Use Ed. when citing a work published in an anthology with one or more editors* *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.3, 5.5.6)*

(See examples on pages 6 and 7 below)

Editors or Compilers: *Use eds. or comps. when citing an entire edited work or an anthology edited or compiled by two or more people (MLA Handbook, 5.5.4).*

Geographic Names: *Use US Postal Service abbreviations for states (e.g.: CA, NY, NJ, etc.)*

For a complete list go to:
www.usps.com/ncsc/lookups/usps_abbreviations.html

Time: *

*Examples:*
Anno Domini: *use AD*
Before Christ: *use BC*
Afternoon: *use p.m.*
Morning: *use a.m.*
Year: *use yr.*
Month: *use mo.*
Week: *use wk.*
Citation Examples for “Works Cited” List

At the end of your paper, you must provide an alphabetical listing of all the works you have cited in your paper. This requirement includes both work you have actually quoted and work you have summarized or paraphrased. The information is arranged alphabetically according to the author’s last name or (when there is no author identified) by title.

I. Books

Elements:
For an entire book:
Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. Full Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date.

    Medium of Publication [Print]. Series.
    • The full title is found on the title page of a book.
    • Authors, editors and series statements usually appear on the title page.
    • Date of publication, publisher and place are usually on the back of the title page.
    • When publication date is not given, use the copyright date.

For part of a book:
Author (of essay, chapter or story being cited), Last Name, First Name. “Title of Chapter or Section
Being Cited.” Translator of the part of the book being cited (if relevant). Full Title of Book.
Name of editor(s), translator(s) or compiler(s) of the entire book. Place of Publication: Publisher,
Date. Page number(s) of the cited piece. Medium of Publication [Print]. Series.

I.A. Books (in their entirety) (MLA Handbook, 5.5)

Book by a single author (MLA Handbook, 5.5.2)

Book by two or three authors (MLA Handbook, 5.5.4)

Book by more than three authors (MLA Handbook, 5.5.4)

Book by a corporate author (MLA Handbook, 5.5.5)

Book by an editor or compiler (MLA Handbook, 5.5.3)
(NOTE: Use “ed.” for editor, “comp.” for compiler. If there are two, add an “s” (e.g., eds.) and list the second name with first name first.)

**Book with author and editor** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.10)*

**Two or more works by the same author** *(MLA Handbook, 5.3.5)*

**Translation** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.11)*

See first example in 1.A. Parts of Books section (below) for an example of a translated work in an anthology.

**Edition** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.13)*

**Book in a series** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.15)*

**Book with no author** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.9)*

**Pamphlet** *(MLA Handbook, 5.5.19)* *(Treat a pamphlet as you would a book.)*
1.B. Parts of Books (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.6.-5.5.8)

**Chapter in an edited book or work in an anthology** (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.6)


**Excerpt from a book, reprinted in an anthology** (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.6)

**Excerpt from an article, reprinted in an anthology** (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.6)

**Signed article in an encyclopedia** (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.7)

**Unsigned article in an encyclopedia or reference book** (*MLA Handbook*, 5.5.7)
II. E-books

Elements:
For an entire e-book:
Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. Full Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date. Title of Database or Online Collection. Medium of Publication [Web]. Date of Access.

For part of an e-book:
Last Name of Section or Chapter Author, First Name of Section or Chapter Author. “Title of Section or Chapter.” Full Title of Book. Ed. Name of Editor(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Date. Page Numbers. Title of Database or Online Collection. Medium of Publication [Web]. Date of Access.

E-book from a library subscription collection (MLA Handbook 5.6.2c)

Free E-book (MLA Handbook 5.6.2c)

Parts of e-books:

Chapter in an edited e-book or work in an online anthology (MLA Handbook 5.6.2c)

Entry from a reference e-book (MLA Handbook 5.6.2c)
III. Articles (from print publications)

Elements:

For scholarly articles:
Author's Last Name, Author’s First Name. “Title of the Article.” Title of the Periodical Volume Number. Issue Number (Date Published): Pages on which the article appears. Medium of Publication [Print].

For other articles:
Author's Last Name, Author’s First Name. “Title of the Article.” Title of the Periodical Volume Number. Issue Number (Date Published): Pages on which the article appears. Medium of Publication [Print].

Article in a scholarly journal (MLA Handbook, 5.4.2)

Article in a magazine (MLA Handbook, 5.4.6)

Article in a newspaper

For print newspaper articles, see MLA Handbook, 6.5.5. For online newspaper articles, see below, Section III: Web Sources.

Article with no author (MLA Handbook, 5.4.9)

Book review (MLA Handbook, 5.4.7)

Chapter in an edited book or work in an anthology (MLA Handbook, 5.5.6)


Excerpt from a book, reprinted in an anthology (MLA Handbook, 5.5.6)

Excerpt from an article, reprinted in an anthology (MLA Handbook, 5.5.6)

Signed article in an encyclopedia (MLA Handbook, 5.5.7)

Unsigned article in an encyclopedia or reference book (MLA Handbook, 5.5.7)
IV. Web Sources (including articles found in databases)

Elements:
For Web-only documents:
Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. “Title of the Work.” Title of Overall Website. Version/Edition. Publisher/Sponsor, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication [Web]. Date of Access. <URL>.

For Web documents that originally appeared in print:
Information about the original print document. Name of Overall Website or Database. Medium of Publication [Web]. Date of Access.

NOTE: Omit URL for citations of sources retrieved from databases. In other citations, URL is optional unless otherwise noted or if instructor requires it.

IV.A. Works from the Free Web (MLA Handbook, 5.6.4)

Article from a website (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)


Article from an online scholarly journal (MLA Handbook, 5.6.3)


Article in an online magazine (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)

Article from a newspaper website (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)


Editorial, no author given:

Article in an online reference book (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)

Web page with author(s) or editor(s) (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)

Web page with no author (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)

**Complete website (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

**Blog entry or comment (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

**Twitter post (use the tweet as the title (enough to serve as an identifiable title) and give the unique URL)**

**E-book (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2c)**

**Online sound recording (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

**Online video (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

**Online image (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

**Interview on the Web (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b and 5.7.7)**

**ePortfolio (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b) (Treat as a web page or website)**

**Entire eportfolio:**

**One page on an eportfolio site:**
IV.B. Works from Databases (aka: Licensed Subscription Services) *(MLA Handbook, 5.6.4)*

**Article in a magazine or journal**


**Article in a newspaper**


**Article from ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times**


**Article from Opposing Viewpoints in Context**


**Article from JSTOR**


**Literary criticism**


**Map from Social Explorer**


In the paper, explain the process of finding the map and data in *Social Explorer* (including the options and data sets selected), making it unnecessary to provide a map citation in the "Works Cited" list. Cite the *Social Explorer* database as a whole:

Table/data from *Infoshare*

A basic table:


A complex area comparison table:
In the paper, explain the process of finding the data in *Infoshare* (including the options and data sets selected), making it unnecessary to provide a table title in the “Works Cited” list. Cite the *Infoshare* database as a whole:
V. Media

Elements:
Film/Video:
*Title.* Director. Other significant information as pertinent (e.g., Writer, Performers). Original Release Date, if relevant. Distributor. Year of Release. Medium [Film or DVD or Videocassette or Filmstrip].

Television/Radio:
“Title of the Episode or Segment.” *Title of the Program or Series.* Name of the Network, if any. Call Letters, City of Local Station. Broadcast Date. Medium [Radio or Television].

Film, Videocassette, Videodisc, or Filmstrip (*MLA Handbook*, 5.7.3)

Television Program (*MLA Handbook*, 5.7.1)

Radio Program (*MLA Handbook*, 5.7.1)

Online sound recording (*MLA Handbook*, 5.6.2b)

Podcasts (*MLA Handbook*, 5.8.17)
If podcast was streamed online, cite as an online sound recording (see above). For podcasts and other digital sound files that have been downloaded, see *Section IV, Digital Files.*

Online Video (*MLA Handbook*, 5.6.2d and 5.7.3)
VI. Images

Elements:

*Image on the Web:*
Artist’s Name. *Title of the Work.* Date of Composition. Name of Institution that Houses the Work (e.g., Museum, Library, etc.). *Title of the Database or Website.* Medium of publication [Web]. Date of Access.

*Image reprinted in a book:*
Artist’s Name. *Title of the Work.* Date of Composition. Medium of Composition (e.g., Photograph, Oil on canvas, Watercolor, etc.). Name of Institution that Houses the Work (Museum, Library, etc.). Complete Publication Information for the book, including page or plate number. Medium of Reproduction [Print].

---

**Image on the Web (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2d)**


**Image reprinted in a book (MLA Handbook, 5.7.6)**

**Map from the Web (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b)**

*See Section IV.B. Works from Databases (above) for maps retrieved from one of the library’s subscription databases*

**Map or chart in a book (MLA Handbook, 5.7.8)**
VII. Government Publications

Elements:

For government publications appearing in print:
Personal Author or (if no personal author given) Government Issuing the Document. Agency or Department. Title of Document. Place of Publication: Publication Office, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication [Print].

For government publications appearing on the Web:
Personal Author or (if no personal author given) Government Issuing the Document. Agency or Department. Title of Document. Place of Publication: Publication Office, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication [Web]. Date of Access. <URL>.

NOTE: URL is optional.

Government document or publication: Print (MLA Handbook, 5.5.20)

Government document: Online (MLA Handbook, 5.5.20 and 5.6.2)

or


Census data online (MLA Handbook, 5.5.20 and 5.6.2)

VIII. Interviews

Elements:

Published or Broadcast interview:
Name of Person Interviewed. “Title of Interview” (if part of another source) OR Title of Interview (if stands alone) OR Interview (if untitled). Publication or Program (if applicable). Interviewer’s Name, if pertinent. Bibliographic Information. Medium of Publication or Broadcast.

Interview conducted by student/researcher:
Name of Person Interviewed. Kind of Interview (e.g., personal, email, telephone, etc.). Date of Interview.

Published or broadcast interview (MLA Handbook, 5.7.7)

Interview conducted by student/researcher (MLA Handbook, 5.7.7)
Reed, Ishmael. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 2007.

Interview on the Web (MLA Handbook, 5.6.2b and 5.7.7)
IX. Digital files (that exist independent of the Web)

(MLA Handbook 5.7.18)

Elements:
Same elements as for comparable format (e.g., book, manuscript, sound recording, video, etc.). Medium of Publication [Name of digital file format followed by the word file].

Text file

Image file

Sound file

Podcast

NOTE: These citations represent digital files that exist independent of the Web. They may be downloaded (music files, PDFs, attached files, etc.) or created offline (MS Word or PowerPoint documents, etc.)

Compiled by Kaywan Chan, Francine Egger-Sider, Tom Fink, Louise Fluk, Clementine Lewis, Elizabeth Namei, Steve Ovadia, Betty Schlissel, Marie Cimino Spina.
Last updated: April 20, 2011