Citation Styles

MLA – Modern Language Association
Based on the MLA Handbook, 8th ed., 2016

Citing sources is a simple way of acknowledging that you are borrowing an author’s words or ideas by inserting a brief parenthetical acknowledgment in your paper that includes the author’s last name and a page reference:

“In children’s text the size and spacing of characters is usually large initially and decreases with reading age” (Wilkins et al. 402).

When the reader sees this reference to Wilkins et al., they know to refer to the “Works Cited” portion of the paper to find the complete bibliographic citation.

For websites or other electronic sources that do not provide page numbers but have numbered paragraphs, you may cite the relevant paragraph number preceded by the abbreviation par. or pars., e.g. (Wilkins et al. par. 5). If the paragraphs are not numbered, you may simply provide the name of the author or the title of the website within the text of the essay.

Works Cited … Making It All Come Together
*Note that the list of works cited is always double-spaced

Books:

One Author and Edition Other than the First


Two Authors


More than Two Authors (City of Publication Given for Unfamiliar Publisher)


Editor


Work in an Anthology or Chapter from a Book

Author
- List your references alphabetically by the author’s last name, then first name(s), e.g. White, Alex W.
- If there is no author, begin your reference with the book title or with the corporate author, if appropriate
- When there are two authors, list them in the order they appear on the title page, not alphabetically
- Reverse the first name listed, add a comma and the word “and,” and list the other name in normal form, e.g. Heller, Steven, and Veronique Vienne
- If there are more than two authors, you may list the first name, followed by a comma and “et al.”
- Finish this element with a period (.)

Title of the Book
- Capitalize the first letter of each significant word in the title and italicize the title
- Separate the title from the subtitle with a colon (:), e.g. AGI: Graphic Design since 1950
- Finish this element with a period (.)

City (Publisher Location)
- It is not necessary to include the city in your reference unless the publisher is relatively unknown (e.g. an unfamiliar publisher located in a country outside of North America or the publisher of a nineteenth-century edition of a work)
- Add an abbreviation of the state, province or country only if the city may be unfamiliar to readers
- Finish this element with a colon (:)

Publisher
- When listing the publisher, use the briefest form possible
- Omit articles (the, a, an)
- Omit business abbreviations (Co., Corp., Ltd.) and descriptive words (Books, House, Press, etc.)
- Whenever possible, shorten the length of the publisher’s name, e.g. UP, not University Press
- Omit initials in the publisher’s name, e.g. Saunders, not WB Saunders
- Finish this element with a comma (,)

Date
- Use the latest copyright date
- Finish this element with a period

Journal Articles:

One or Two Authors


More than Two Authors

Author
- List journal articles by the author’s name, then first name(s)
- If there are more than two authors, you may list the first name, followed by a comma and “et al.”
- Finish this element with a period (.)

Article Title
- Place the full title of the article and the subtitle in quotation marks
- Capitalize the first letter of each significant word of the title
- Finish this element with a period before the quotation marks (.”)

Journal Title
- Italicize the journal title
- Capitalize the first letter of each significant word of the journal title
- Finish this element with a comma (,)

Publication Information
- Include the volume and issue number after the title. The volume number precedes the issue number and is preceded by the abbreviation “vol.” It is followed by a comma (,)
- The issue number is preceded by the abbreviation “no.” It is followed by a comma (,)
- If there is no volume or issue number, you may omit one or both from the reference
- List the pages of the article you have used after the date. They are preceded by the abbreviation “p.” for page or “pp.” for pages and are separated with a hyphen (-)
- Finish this element with a period (.)

Date
- The date is placed between the volume and issue numbers and the pagination
- Provide all information that is available for the date, such as day, month, year, and/or season. Except for the months of May, June and July, the months are always abbreviated
- Full date appear in the following format; Day Abbreviated Month Year, e.g. 14 Jan. 2016

Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, and other Reference Books:

Entries Signed by the Author


Entries with No Author


- When citing familiar reference books, especially those that appear in new editions frequently, do not give full publication information. Only give the edition and the year published
- When citing less familiar reference books, give full publication information, including editors’ names and the volume number used
- When citing an entire work that consists of more than one volume, provide the number of volumes at the end of the reference, e.g. 5 vols.
**Newspaper and Magazine Articles:**

**Article Signed by the Author**


**Article with No Author**


- Capitalize the first letter of each significant word in the article title and enclose it in quotation marks. When alphabetizing the title in the Works cited list, ignore initial articles much as “a,” “an,” or “the”
- Italicize the title of the newspaper or magazine
- Always abbreviate the month (e.g. Apr.) except for the months of May, June, and July
- Provide volume and issue numbers if they are prominently displayed
- If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number and a plus sign, e.g. 39+

**Pamphlets and Brochures:**


- Treat a pamphlet as you would a book
- If no personal author is identified, begin the citation with the title or the name of the corporate author or the organization, if appropriate
- If the corporate author is also the publisher, abbreviate the publisher’s name
- If the date of publication cannot be identified, provide an approximate date in square brackets, e.g. [2018] or [2018?] or [circa 2018]

**Audiovisual Material:**


- Begin with the italicized title
- Capitalize the first letter of each significant word of the title
- You may include other pertinent data (e.g. directors, producers, actors) between the title and the distributor
- Include the copyright date
- For YouTube videos, start with the title in quotation marks if the creator’s name is the same as the uploader’s name followed by the name of the website (i.e. YouTube) in italics, the uploader’s name, the date the video was posted, and the URL (omit http://)
**Personal Interviews:**

Janoff, Robb. Personal interview. 28 May 2019.

- To cite an interview that you conducted personally, provide the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview (personal interview, telephone interview, etc.) and the date.
- The date should take the following format: Day Abbreviated Month Year (e.g. 25 Feb. 2019)

**Internet Sources:**


- If no author’s name is given, start the reference with the corporate author or the title of the website.
- If there is no title for the website, provide a description (such as Home page). Do not italicize this title or put it in quotation marks.
- Provide the name of the publisher (or the name of the institution that sponsors the site) and the date of publication or the date the site was last updated.
- Publication and/or access dates are cited as follows: Day Abbreviated Month Year (e.g. 8 Nov. 2019).
- If there is no publication date or last update, provide the date you accessed the website as shown above.
- It is not necessary to provide the URL for the website unless the site is difficult to find on the Internet. If so, include the URL, omitting http:// or https://; if the URL may be unstable, provide the date of access.

**Electronic Databases (e.g. EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and Gale):**

**Journal Article with DOI**


**Magazine Article with a Permalink**


**Newspaper Article**

• Prepare a reference to the article using MLA format for journal, magazine, or newspaper articles
• Include the title of the database and italicize it, e.g. *MasterFILE Elite* (EBSCOhost)
• Do not include the URL for the article; instead provide the DOI (digital object identifier) in the format shown above or, if there is no DOI, you may provide a permalink for the article as provided by the database

**Electronic Books**


• Prepare a reference to the electronic book using MLA format for books as described above
• If retrieved from a database, include the title of the database and italicize it (e.g. eBook Collection)
• If desired, you may also include the URL for a full-text book that is retrievable online (omit http:// or https://)

**Digital Image from the Internet**


• If known, provide the name of the creator followed by the title of the image in quotation marks and the type of image. Add the title of the webpage and/or website (italicized), any other contributors who may be associated with the image, the date, and the URL (omit http:// or https://)
• If any of the above elements are missing, they may be omitted; however, if there is no title for the image, provide a short description in square brackets. If there is no date associated with the image or the website, provide the date the website was accessed (Day Abbreviated Month Year) preceded by the word “Accessed”

**For Additional Information Please Consult:**


This is a sample of a works cited page in Modern Language Association (MLA) format. It provides examples of how a few different print, audiovisual and Internet sources are recorded. Citations are listed in alphabetical order. If a citation runs to a second line, indent the second line ½ inch from the margin with a hanging indent.

### Works Cited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Citation Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Interview</td>
<td>Janoff, Robb. Personal interview. 28 May 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>