Citation Basics: MLA Style (8th Edition)

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. MLA has one set of guidelines for creating citations for all types of sources. To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, you need to create a list of sources of information (works) cited and a series of citations that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source (in-text parenthetical citations). Create a citation for each source using the nine pieces of information (core elements) described below in the order listed. When you cannot find one of the core elements, skip it, and move to the next one. Use the punctuation shown in each box. Many examples are provided following the explanations. For more detailed explanations and additional types of citations, please see the *MLA Handbook*, (8th ed.), or ask a librarian for assistance.

**MLA Core Elements**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Title of source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Title of container,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other contributors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Version,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Publisher,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Publication date,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Location.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MLA Citation FAQ**

- **Caution**: Citations provided by citation generators are rarely 100% correct. Verify for accuracy.
- Indent one-half inch before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation (i.e. a hanging indent).
- Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June and July.
- Include all sources cited in your paper.
- The first letter of the first word in the title and the first letter of all major words are capitalized.
- All citations end with a period.
- Double space all lines within and between entries.

Examples provided on this handout are single spaced to save space.
### Examples for Books

**Book: One Author**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Author.</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Title of source.</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Publisher,</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>Publication date,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Book: Multiple Authors**


*Note:* If there are one, or two authors, use both names. List the second author in regular first name, last name order. If there are three or more authors, use only the first author and replace the remaining authors names with "et al."

**Book: Work in an Anthology**


**Reference Book: Chapter or Article**


**eBook**

Mertig, Rita G. *What Nurses Know: Diabetes,* Demos Health, 2011. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost).*

**Reference eBook: Chapter or Article**


**eBook Chapter: Database (Reprint)**


### Examples for Databases

**Database: Journal Article**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Author.</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Title of source.</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>Title of container,</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Number,</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>Publication date,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Database: Newspaper Article**


**Database: Artemis Literary Sources: Reprint**


**Database Business Source Premier: Company Profile**


**Database Credo**


**Database Global Road Warrior**


**Database Lexis Nexis Academic**


**Database Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Essay**


**Database Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Journal Article**


**Database Science Direct**


**Database SIRS Issues Researcher**


**Database VAST: Academic Video Online**

Examples for Web Sites

Web Site: No Author

Web Site: Author

Web Site: Organization Author

Web Site: Journal Article

Web Site: Newspaper Article

Examples for Other Sources

Image: Commercial
Notre Dame de Paris, 2011, City Pictures.

Image: Personal

Image: Database

Interview
Sargent, Margaret. Personal interview. 15 Feb. 2016.

Email
Woodward, Julie. “Newborn FAQs.” Received by Robert Small. 21 May 2015.

Motion Picture/Video/DVD

YouTube Video

Sound Recording

TED Talk

Blog Post
Documenting Sources in the Text of the Paper with In-Text Parenthetical Citations

When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with a parenthetical reference. Place the author’s last name and the page number in parentheses after the material used as close as possible to the material being documented, preferably at the end of a sentence. When no author is available, use the shortest form of the title necessary to identify the work from your list of Works Cited and the page number. When no page number is available, cite the entire work. If the author’s name appears in the text, it may be omitted from the parenthetical reference. Include the complete citation to the work in the list of works cited at the end of the paper.

The text would state: One suggestion to uncover disorders is that “a structured interview could be employed by staff at juvenile justice facilities for routine identification of potential behavioral health conditions” (Drerup et al. 126).

Or the text could state: According to Drerup, Croysdale and Hoffmann, “a structured interview could be employed by staff at juvenile justice facilities for routine identification of potential behavioral health conditions” (126).

The List of Works Cited would state:


If there is no author: Begin the reference with the first word or two of the title. For example: (“Violence” 688).

If there is no page number: Cite the entire work (that is, do not include a page number). For example: (“Cyberbullying” Gale)

If the source is audio or video: Cite the relevant time or time range as displayed in your media reader. For example: (Sapolsky 00:03:16-17)

Works Cited


