

MLA Style, 8th ed., 2016

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Core elements of any citation

Elements of a citation for all source types:

1. **Author(s).**
2. **Title of Source.**
3. ***Title of Container,***
4. **Other contributors,**
5. **Version,**
6. **Number,**
7. **Publisher,**
8. **Publication date,**
9. **Location.**



How to make sense of these citation elements:

1. **Author(s).**
 - If listed.
 - For three or more authors, list the first author's name, followed by "*et al.*"
 - For a film/video, list the director.
 - For an edited source with no authors listed, use the editor(s) as the author(s).
2. **Title of Source.**
 - Book or website (if citing the entire source), webpage, article, essay, video, film, image
 - In quotation marks if the source is part of a larger work (its container).
 - Italicized if the source is self-contained (with no larger container), such as a book, website, or a film.
 - Capitalize each word except for prepositions, articles (*a, an, the*), and conjunctions (*and, but, or*) unless they begin the title.
3. **Title of Container,**
 - Website, journal/magazine/newspaper, book
 - Italicize.
 - Capitalize each word except for prepositions, articles (*a, an, the*), and conjunctions (*and, but, or*) unless they begin the title.
4. **Other contributors,**
 - Editors (if any), for a film: anyone specifically mentioned in your writing, such as an actor.
5. **Version,**
 - Edition, version
6. **Number,**
 - Volume number (of a book or journal/magazine/newspaper)
 - Volume is now listed as "vol. 4,"
 - Issue number (of a journal/magazine/newspaper)
 - Issue number is now listed as "no. 3"
7. **Publisher,**
 - Book publisher
 - Institution responsible for the webpage
 - Unless that's also the website's name/container title
 - Unless that institution didn't make the content of the page (e.g., YouTube or an article database company like EBSCO or JSTOR)
 - Publisher names are now written nearly in full except for words like "Company" or "Inc." which are omitted, and "U" and "UP" which is used for "University" and "University Press."
 - U of Chicago P (for University of Chicago Press)
 - Chelsea House Publishers
 - Vintage Books
8. **Publication date,**
 - For a webpage, look for a date on the page—otherwise skip.



- If a month and day are listed—even in a scholarly journal—now they’re included with the year.
- If no date is listed, omit the date (instead of writing “n.d.” for “no date”).
- For books with more than one copyright date, use the most recent year.

9. Location.

- Webpage URL, page numbers
- URL is without the http:// or https:// and without angle brackets.
- URL ends with a / and a period.
- Avoid using shortened URLs like bit.ly
- Page numbers are written as “p.” or “pp.”
- For online articles with a DOI (digital object identifier), list the DOI with a “doi:” immediately before the number (e.g., “doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.”).
- End the citation with a period.

Works Cited List

- Title your list of sources at the end of your paper, “Works Cited”
- List sources alphabetically by author last name (and by source title for works with no author).
- Include only the sources you directly cite in your paper; if you wish to include any source you consulted, obtain permission from your instructor and title the list, “Works Consulted”

Books

1. Author’s Last name, First name. (**Author.**)
2. *Title of Book.* (**Title of Source & Container.**)
3. **Publisher,**
4. **Publication date.**

One Author

Bérubé, Michael. *The Secret Life of Stories: From Don Quixote to Harry Potter, How Understanding Intellectual Disability Transforms the Way We Read.* New York UP, 2016.

Two Authors

Mackiewicz, Jo, and Isabelle Kramer Thompson. *Talk about Writing: The Tutoring Strategies of Experienced Writing Center Tutors.* Routledge, 2015.

Three or More Authors (or Editors)

Vandenberg, Peter, et al., editors. *Relations, Locations, Positions: Composition Theory for Writing Teachers.* National Council of Teachers of English, 2006.

Essay in an Edited Anthology or Compilation

Cushman, Ellen. “Location and (Dis)placement in Composition Pedagogy.” *Relations, Locations, Positions: Composition Theory for Writing Teachers*, edited by Peter Vandenberg et al., National Council of Teachers of English, 2006, pp. 358-362.



Cross-References (for citing different essays from the same book)

The citations are listed together below, but in your works cited list, they would be alphabetically listed among all of the other citations, with many citations in between them.

Stegner and Zwinger wrote essays in the book edited by Huser:

Huser, Verne, editor. *River Reflections: A Collection of River Writings*. U of New Mexico P, 2005.

Stegner, Wallace. "The Sound of Mountain Waters." Huser, pp. 79-84.

Zwinger, Ann. "Run, River, Run." Huser, pp. 184-190.

e-Books

e-books have two containers:

1. The book container

- List all of the elements as available except "Other contributors."

2. The e-book database container

- List only elements:
 - Database Name, (Title of Container),*
 - Permalink. (**Location.**)

Phillips, Siobhan. *The Poetics of the Everyday: Creative Repetition in Modern American Verse*. Columbia UP, 2010. *eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)*,
libcat.landmark.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=944960&site=ehost-live.

Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia Article, Print

- Article author's Last name, First name.* (**Author.**)
- "Title of Article." ("**Title of Source.**")
- Title of Encyclopedia, (Title of Container),*
- Publisher,**
- Publication date,**
- Page numbers. (**Location.**)

*The article's author is listed at the end or sometimes the beginning of the article. If it appears to be the encyclopedia's editor who wrote the article, follow "Encyclopedia Article, No Author" below.

Harper, Mary Catherine. "Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*." *Critical Insights: The Graphic Novel*. Gary Hoppenstand, editor. Salem P, 2014, pp. 123-137.

Encyclopedia Article, Online

Articles from an article database have two containers:

1. The encyclopedia container,

- List all of the elements as available. (Sometimes page numbers aren't provided.)



2. The article database container

- List only elements:
 - *Encyclopedia Database Name, (Title of Container),*
 - Permalink. (**Location.**)

Harper, Mary Catherine. "Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*." *Critical Insights: The Graphic Novel*. Ed. Gary Hoppenstand. Hackensack: Salem P, 2014. *Salem Online*, libcat.landmark.edu:2048/login?url=http://online.salempress.com/articleDetails.do?articleName=CIGraphic_0012.

Encyclopedia Article, No Author

"Doublethink." *Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction*, Jeff Prucher, editor. Oxford UP, 2008, p. 38.

Articles

1. Article author's Last name, First name.* (**Author.**)
2. "Title of Article." ("**Title of Source.**")
3. *Title of Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper, (Title of Container),*
4. For journal articles: volume and issue number as "vol." and "no.," (**Number,**)
5. **Publication date,**
6. Page numbers or article URL. (**Location.**)

Journal Article, Print

Stockstill, Ellen J. "Gender Politics in Alfred, Lord Tennyson's 'The Lady of Shalott.'" *Explicator*, vol. 70, no. 1, 2012, pp. 13-16.

Magazine Article, Print

Boxer, Sarah. "Reading Proust on My Cellphone." *The Atlantic*, June 2016, pp. 92-102.

Article, Online (from the website of the journal, magazine, or newspaper)

Liguori, Rob. "Tom Robbins, Cosmic Lounge Lizard." *The New York Times*, 23 May 2014, www.nytimes.com/2014/05/25/magazine/tom-robbins-cosmic-lounge-lizard.html. Interview.

Steinmetz, Katie. "Dictionary.com adds 'Woke,' 'Pokémon,' and 'Butthurt.'" *Time*, 19 July 2016, time.com/4408533/dictionary-words-woke-pokemon-cisgender/.

Article, Online (from a website not belonging to the journal, magazine, or newspaper)

Articles from an article database have two containers:

1. The journal/magazine/newspaper container
 - List all of the elements as available except "Other contributors."
2. The website container
 - List only elements:
 - *Website Name, (Title of container),*
 - Article page URL. (**Location.**)



Brown, Thomas E. "Ten Myths about ADHD and Why They Are Wrong." *ADDitude*, June 2013, pp. 6-9.
Dr. Thomas E. Brown, www.drthomasebrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/BROWN_ADHD_MYTHS.pdf.

Article from an Article Database

Articles from an article database have two containers:

3. **The journal/magazine/newspaper container**
 - List all of the elements as available except "Other contributors."
4. **The article database container**
 - List only elements:
 - *Database Name*, (**Title of Container**),
 - DOI number, if possible—otherwise use a permalink. (**Location**.)

Raghuwanshi, Monika. "Human Relationship in the Novels of Jane Austen." *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Approach & Studies* vol. 3, no. 3, 2016, pp. 108-112. *Academic Search Premier*, <http://libcat.landmark.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=116770340&site=eds-live>.

Oziewicz, Marek. "Restorative Justice Scripts in Ursula K. Le Guin's Voices." *Children's Literature in Education*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2011, pp. 33-43. *Academic Search Premier*, doi:10.1007/s10583-010-9118-8.

Article with Only an Abstract

Do everything you can to obtain the full text of the article before resorting to citing only the abstract.
 Your library can try to interlibrary loan the article for you if it doesn't have full text access.

MLA doesn't recognize citing an abstract as an option; it doesn't address it at all, perhaps assuming you would never do such a thing. The example below is modeled after MLA's examples of how to address an "unexpected type of work."

Use the example for an Article, Online or an Article from an Online Database as appropriate, and at the very end, add the word "Abstract."

Oziewicz, Marek. "Restorative Justice Scripts in Ursula K. Le Guin's Voices." *Children's Literature in Education*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2011, pp. 33-43. *Academic Search Premier*, doi:10.1007/s10583-010-9118-8, Abstract.

Article with No Author

Begin the citation with the article title when there is no author.

"Bernstein and Baldwin Join Legion of Honor." *New York Times*, 26 June 1986,
www.nytimes.com/1986/06/20/arts/bernstein-and-baldwin-join-legion-of-honor.html.



Websites & Webpages

Webpages (and Blog Posts)

1. Page author's Last name, First name. (**Author.**)
2. "Title of Page." ("**Title of Source.**")
3. *Title of the Website or Blog*, (**Title of Container,**)
4. Organization or Institution Responsible for the Site,* (**Publisher,**)
5. Date of the page, (**Publication date,**)
6. URL. (**Location.**)

*If the website's name is the same as the publisher name, then omit the publisher part of the citation, as is done in this example:

Pavlić, Ed. "'Welcome to the Errordome': Are Editors Still Afraid of James Baldwin?" *PEN America*, 2014, pen.org/nonfiction/%E2%80%9Cwelcome-errordome%E2%80%9D-are-editors-still-afraid-james-baldwin/.

Websites

1. Website author's Last name, First name. (**Author.**)
2. *Title of the Website or Blog*, (**Title of Source & Container,**)
3. Organization or Institution Responsible for the Site,* (**Publisher**)
4. Date of the page—as a date range if relevant, (**Publication date,**)
5. URL. (**Location.**)

*If the website's name is the same as the publisher name, then omit the publisher part of the citation, as is done in this example:

Walker, Alice. *Alice Walker: The Official Website*. 2008-2016, alicewalkersgarden.com.

Comments on a Webpage

1. Screen name of commenter. (**Author.**)
2. "Title of the Page Being Commented on." ("**Title of Source.**")
3. *Title of the Website or Blog*, (**Title of Container,**)
4. Date and time of the comment (not the webpage), (**Publication date,**)
5. URL. (**Location.**)

neglectedbooksEditor. Comment on "Reading on Screens." *So Many Books*, 22 July 2015, 2:20 p.m. somanymanybooksblog.com/2015/07/15/reading-on-screens/.

Online Videos

Online videos (from **YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, Films on Demand**, etc.) also have two containers:

1. **The video information container**
 - For a **TV episode**:
 1. Skip the **Author**.
 2. "Episode Title." ("**Title of Source.**")
 3. *TV Series Title*, (**Title of Container,**)



4. Name of an actor that is discussed in your writing; otherwise omit, (**Other Contributors,**)
 5. Season and episode numbers, (**Number,**)
 6. Company producing the TV series, (**Publisher,**)
 7. Date the show first aired. (**Publication date.**)
- For a **movie**:
 1. Director's Last name, First Name. (**Author.**)
 2. *Movie Title.* (**Title of Container.**)
 3. Name of an actor that is discussed in your writing; otherwise omit, (**Other Contributors,**)
 4. Company that produced the movie (e.g., Twentieth Century Fox), (**Publisher,**)
 5. Year the movie was made. (**Publication date.**)
2. **The video database container**
 - With only elements:
 1. Video provider name (e.g., *Hulu, Netflix, YouTube, Films on Demand*), (**Title of Container,**)
 2. Video URL. (**Location.**)

TV Show Viewed Online

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999, *Hulu*, www.hulu.com/watch/567723/.

Movie Viewed Online

McQueen, Steve, director. *12 Years a Slave*. Performance by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Twentieth Century Fox, 2013. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com/title/42365387.

Jones, Jon, director. *Northanger Abbey*. Granada Television, 2007. *YouTube*, uploaded by Harpier Noctum, 6 June 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqrfXsDshqg.

Movie Viewed on DVD or Blu-ray or in the Theater (i.e., not online)

1. Director's Last Name, First Name. (**Author.**)
2. *Movie Title.* (**Title of Source & Container,**)
3. An actor that is discussed in your writing; otherwise omit. (**Other contributors,**)
4. Movie production company (e.g., Twentieth Century Fox), (**Publisher,**)
5. Year movie was made. (**Publication date.**)

McQueen, Steve, director. *12 Years a Slave*. Performance by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Twentieth Century Fox, 2013.

YouTube Video (with YouTube as the only container)

1. "Title of Video." ("**Title of Source.**")
2. Names of people who made the video, (**Other contributors,**)
3. *YouTube*, (**Title of Container,**)
4. Screen name or name of who uploaded the video, (something extra to be helpful)



5. Date video was uploaded, (**Publication date**),
6. URL of video. (**Location**.)

“The Real Housewives of Jane Austen.” Created and produced by Jane Hancock, et al., *YouTube*, uploaded by Playing with Fire Films, 15 Dec. 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CvsWQz_oWQ.

“Jane Austen: The Novel and Social Realism.” Lecture by Kathryn Sutherland. *YouTube*, uploaded by the British Library, 9 June 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZllzpDQdFQ.

Online Images

Image from a Museum or Gallery

1. Last Name of Artist, First Name. (**Author**)
2. *Title of Artwork*. (**Title of Source & Container**.)
3. Date of creation, (**Publication date**),
4. medium of artwork, (Something extra to be helpful,)
5. The institution and city where the work is, (**Location**),
6. *Title of Website*, (**Title of 2nd Container**),
7. URL. (**Location of 2nd Container**.)

Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Portrait of Isabella d’Este*. 1499-1500, sketch, Louvre, Paris, *Louvre*, www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/portrait-isabella-d-este/.

Image Not from a Museum or Gallery

1. Last Name of Artist, First Name. (**Author**.)
2. *Title of Artwork*. (**Title of Source & Container**.)
3. Date of creation, (**Publication date**),
4. medium of artwork, (Something extra to be helpful,)
5. *Title of Website*, (**Title of 2nd Container**),
6. URL. (**Location of 2nd Container**.)

Halls, Roxana. *Laughing While Eating Salad*. 2013, oil on linen, *Roxanna Halls*, roxanahalls.com/artwork/3587028_Laughing_While_Eating_Salad.html.

Tweet

1. Twitter handle, and if available (Twitter author’s real name). (**Author**.)
2. “The complete tweet, capitalized like the original tweet, including #hashtags.” (“**Title of Source**.”)
3. *Twitter*, (**Title of Container**),
4. Date and time of the tweet, (**Publication date**),
5. URL of the specific tweet (not the Twitter site for the tweeter). (**Location**.)

@TheBloggess (Jenny Lawson). “#MyDepressionLooksLike exhaustion that makes me view my bed as a solace and a prison at the same time.” *Twitter*, 22 May 2016, 2:47 p.m., twitter.com/TheBloggess/status/734500949713137664.

Multiple Works by the Same Author or Coauthors

1. Give the author name (or authors' names*) in the first entry only.
2. For all other entries by that same author or authors, list three hyphens and a period.
3. List the entries alphabetically by source title.

*For multiple works by the same coauthors, the coauthors' names need to be listed in the exact same order for each entry in order to be treated this way (i.e., Smith and Jones each time, not Smith and Jones, and then Jones and Smith). Otherwise, alphabetize according to the first author's last name.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir*. Scribner, 1996.

---. *Teacher Man: A Memoir*. Scribner, 2005.

In-Text Citations

Guidelines for Paraphrasing and Quoting

- Cite only the last name of the author (or an abbreviated source title if no author).
- Cite the page number(s) of the paraphrased or quoted information.
- Don't include the page number if:
 - The source is only a page long.
 - The source is a website or webpage (and not a PDF).
 - The source is an article in HTML format (not PDF) from an online database.
 - You wish to cite the entire source.
 - The source is a video. (In that case, list the time relevant time range, e.g., 00:06:17-54).
- Use the present tense to explain what an author wrote (e.g., "Smith argues" not "Smith argued").
- Within a paragraph, the second (or third, etc.) time you site a source, list only the page number. No page number? Then you can write "(ibid.)"
- Quotes longer than four lines should be indented by a half inch.
- If your quote contains a quote, use single quotation marks (') around the original quote.

One Author

Smith agrees with this assertion (33).

This point has been argued before (Smith 33).

Two Authors

Others, like Warren and Jones (314-15), argue an opposite point of view.

Others argue an opposite point of view (e.g., Warren and Jones 314-15).

Three or More Authors

Martin et al. explain (32) that ". . .

. . . simply radiate outward" (Martin et al. 32).



Anonymous Author

(Use an abbreviation of the beginning of the source title—one or two words suffice.)

“When she was asked what words most brought her comfort, she said, ‘Love.’ And, after love, ‘forgiveness’” (“To Come”).

(The above quote is from an obituary in *The Economist* for Maya Angelou titled, “To Come; Maya Angelou.” There are no page numbers in this particular citation because the obituary was only one page and on an unpaginated web page. Other anonymous author in-text citations may have page numbers.)

Same Author, Different Works

(Use an abbreviation of the beginning of the source title.)

In *Driven to Distraction*, Hallowell and Ratey explain . . . (24).

. . . may be one solution (Hallowell and Ratey *Answers to Distraction* 48).

Multiple Works by the Same Author or Coauthors

(Cite the Author’s last name, followed by the first word or two of the source title—either italicized or in quotes to match the citation in the works cited list.)

(McCourt, *Angela’s* 42)

(McCourt, *Teacher* 154)

. . . or if citing both sources in the same citation:

(McCourt, *Angela’s* and *Teacher*)

Multiple Sources in the Same In-Text Citation

Separate different sources within the same parenthetical reference with semicolons. List alphabetically.

(Gilbert 55; Morgan and Jones 72)

Multivolume Work

(If you cite from a multivolume work, include the volume number, followed by a colon, before the page numbers.)

Samuel Johnson declared the misuse of patriotism as “...the last refuge of a scoundrel.” (“Patriotism,” 3:132-133).

(The above citation has an anonymous author, and therefore the first word of the source title is used instead.)

Online Article, Webpage, or Website

- If an online article is in PDF form, include page numbers.
- If the article, webpage, or website is only in HTML (not PDF), list no page numbers; just the author.

- If an article or webpage has paragraph numbers next to each paragraph, list them in place of page numbers with “par.” such as (Johnson par. 4).

I’m Not There director Todd Haynes explains his choice of actress Cate Blanchett to play a phase of Bob Dylan’s life: “I thought an actress could be interesting, because there was an androgyny there. It wasn’t a Bowie androgyny, it was more a Patti Smith androgyny he was channeling” (Marcus).

(The above citation is from a *New York Times* article by Greil Marcus found on the newspaper’s website; therefore, no page number is included.)

Quotations Longer Than Four Lines

- Block indent by a half inch a quotation that is longer than four lines.
- After the final period of the indented quote, place the parenthetical reference with no period.
- If the quote begins with a complete sentence, precede it by a colon, as in the example below.
- If the quote begins midsentence, do not use a colon.

(In the example below, there is no parenthetical reference because the source’s author is already named, and there are no page numbers because it came from a webpage.)

As an encouragement to struggling writers, Ursula K. Le Guin shares on her website the text of a rejection letter for her Hugo and Nebula award-winning novel, *The Left Hand of Darkness*:

Ursula K. Le Guin writes extremely well, but I'm sorry to have to say that on the basis of that one highly distinguishing quality alone I cannot make you an offer for the novel. The book is so endlessly complicated by details of reference and information, the interim legends become so much of a nuisance despite their relevance, that the very action of the story seems to be to become hopelessly bogged down and the book, eventually, unreadable. The whole is so dry and airless, so lacking in pace, that whatever drama and excitement the novel might have had is entirely dissipated by what does seem, a great deal of the time, to be extraneous material. My thanks nonetheless for having thought of us. The manuscript of *The Left Hand of Darkness* is returned herewith.

Quotes within a Quote

If your quote contains a quote, use single quotation marks (‘ ’) around the original or internal quote.

Speaking of the so-called “fake news show” *The Daily Show*, former host Jon Stewart explains, “It’s satire, so it’s an expression of real feelings. So I don’t mean that in the sense of, ‘I don’t mean this.’ What I mean is, the tools of satire should not be confused with the tools of news. We use hyperbole, but the underlying sentiment has to feel ethically, intentionally correct . . .” (Freeman).



Ellipses in Quotations (Omitting Words from a Quote)

When you wish to omit words from a quote:

- In the middle of a quote with at least one sentence omitted: include a period to end the sentence before the omission, then use ellipses with spaces before, in between, and after each period: (. . . .)
- In the middle of a quote with the omission from the middle of one sentence to the middle of another: use ellipses with spaces before, in between, and after each period: (. . .)
- At the end of a quote: use ellipses with a spaces before and in between each period, followed by the end quotation marks: (. . . .")

Original:

"It's satire, so it's an expression of real feelings. So I don't mean that in the sense of, 'I don't mean this.' What I mean is, the tools of satire should not be confused with the tools of news. We use hyperbole, but the underlying sentiment has to feel ethically, intentionally correct, otherwise we wouldn't do it" (Freeman).

Quotation with an ellipses in the middle with at least one sentence omitted:

Speaking of the so-called "fake news show" *The Daily Show*, then-host Jon Stewart explains, "It's satire, so it's an expression of real feelings. . . . We use hyperbole, but the underlying sentiment has to feel ethically, intentionally correct, otherwise we wouldn't do it" (Freeman).

Quotation with an ellipses from the middle of one sentence to the middle of another:

Speaking of the so-called "fake news show" *The Daily Show*, then-host Jon Stewart explains, "It's satire, so . . . the underlying sentiment has to feel ethically, intentionally correct, otherwise we wouldn't do it" (Freeman).

Quotation with an ellipses at the end:

Speaking of the so-called "fake news show" *The Daily Show*, then-host Jon Stewart explains, "It's satire, so it's an expression of real feelings. So I don't mean that in the sense of, 'I don't mean this.' What I mean is, the tools of satire should not be confused with the tools of news. We use hyperbole, but the underlying sentiment has to feel ethically, intentionally correct . . ." (Freeman).



Citing a Source Cited by Your Source (Indirect Source)

Say you're using Source A, who cites Source B, and you want to summarize, paraphrase, or quote Source B.

Here are your options:

1. Find Source B and cite it directly. (This is the safest, most respected option.)
2. Mention the author of Source B in your text, and in the in-text citation, write "qtd. in" Source A. (This is the compromise when there's no time or no way to get Source B.)

Smith asserts that "responsible researchers make every attempt to use a source directly" (qtd. in Martin 26).

