How to Prepare Bibliographic Citations: Modern Language Association


The 8th edition of the MLA Handbook provides a “universal set of guidelines” for citing sources across all format types. The previous editions of the MLA Handbook gave a separate set of citation instructions for each format type. The 8th edition of the MLA Handbook focuses on core elements that are common to all formats, as follows:

Author
Title of Source (e.g. a book, article, chapter, song, or episode.)
Title of Container (e.g. a journal, a book, album, TV show.)
Other Contributors (e.g. editors, translator, series creator, producer.) Version
Number (e.g. vol. and issue of a journal.)
Publisher
Publication date
Location (e.g. page numbers or timestamp)

All of these elements go into creating a bibliographic citation for the “Works Cited” page. The list of “Works Cited” is the bibliography or the list of the sources cited in the text of the research paper and appears at the end of the paper.

Works Cited

Books

Book: Single Author
Lastname, Firstname. Title of the Book: Plus a Subtitle. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Book: Multiple Authors
List up to three authors in the order in which they are displayed on the title page of the book. For more than three authors, the first author is listed followed by et al.

Lastname, Firstname, Firstname Lastname, and Firstname Lastname. *Title of the Book: Plus a Subtitle.* Publisher, Year of Publication.

Book: Editor
Lastname, Firstname. *Title of the Book: Plus a Subtitle.* Edited by Firstname Lastname, Publisher, Year of Publication.

Book: No Author
*Title of the Book: Plus a Subtitle.* Edited by Firstname Lastname, Publisher, Year of Publication.

Anthologies and Book Chapters

Chapter of an Anthology

Reference Works

Entry: No Author
"Title of Entry." *Title of the Book: Plus a Subtitle,* ed. Firstname Lastname. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Entry: Author
Articles

Scholarly Articles

**Article: Single Author**


**Article: Multiple Authors**


Newspapers

**Print Article: Single Author**
Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Publication*, Date of Publication, Page or Section.


Websites

**An Entire Website**
Lastname, Firstname or Corporate Name. *Title of the Website*. Date range, URL.


**A Blog Post or Comments**
Lastname, Firstname. "Title of the Post." *Title of the Blog*, Title of Sponsoring Site (optional), Date Posted or Revised, URL.


Social Media

**Twitter**
@handlename. "Text of Tweet." *Twitter*, Date Posted, Time Posted, URL.

Email
Lastname, Firstname. "Subject Line of Email." Received by Firstname Lastname, Date.
Anderson, Peter. "Re: Need help with my MLA Citations" Received by Jennifer Smith, 14 Sep. 2016.

Music and Videos

Music

Song
Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Song." Title of the Album. Record Label, Year of Release. URL (optional).

On the Web

YouTube
"Title of Video." YouTube, uploaded by Firstname Lastname or Corporate Name, Date Posted, URL.

Streaming Service
"Title of Episode. Title of the Series: Plus a Subtitle. Season number, episode number, Original Network, original air date. Platform, URL.

Television

Television Series
Title of the Series: Plus a Subtitle, created By Firstname Lastname, Production Company. Date Range.
Pretty Little Liars, created by I. Marlene King, ABC Family. 2001-2016.

Single Episode of a Series
"Title of Episode." Title of the Series: Plus a Subtitle, created by Firstname Lastname, performance by Firstname Lastname, season number, episode number, Production Company. Date.
Films

Film or Movie
Lastname, Firstname, director. Title of the Movie: Plus a Subtitle. Primary Production Company, Year of Release.


Other Common Sources

Images

Image in Print (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)
Lastname, Firstname (of artist or creator). Title of Image. Date of creation, Institution and City where it is housed. Title of Book it Appears in, by Firstname, Lastname, Publisher, Page number.


Images Online (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)
Lastname, Firstname (of artist or creator). Title of Image. Date of creation, Institution and City where it is housed, Name of website, URL, Date of Access.


Lectures or Presentations

Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Presentation." Name of Specific Event. Name of Conference or Organizing Event, Date, Location


Government Documents

Any citation entry of a document from a government agency should begin with the name of the government, then the agency name, with any other organizational bodies between them. Names are arranged smallest to largest entity. U.S. Congressional publications should include the number and session of the Congress, and the identifying number of the publication.

Name of Country or State, Name of Agency, Additional Agencies as needed. Title of the Report: Plus a Subtitle. Publisher, Year of Publication.

In-Text Citations

In-Text citations are brief citations found after a direct quote or a paraphrase to indicate the source you consulted. They are located in the body of your work. In-Text citations are placed in parentheses. A typical in-text citation is composed of the element that comes first in the entry in the works-cited list (usually the author’s last name) and a page number.

Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194).

When using the author’s name in the sentence, only include the page number in parentheses. According to Naomi Baron, reading is just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (194).

For more examples and information consult the following online sources:

The MLA Style Center  style.mla.org/

MLA Formatting and Style Guide (Purdue OWL)
owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

EasyBib-MLA Format (8th ed.)
www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-format/