

A-Z Quick Start Guide to MLA

A-Z Learning Services, TH131
Student Success Centre
Brock University
www.brocku.ca/learning-services

MLA Style 8th Edition Guide

This guide is intended to provide selected examples of in-text and works cited entries. The examples are formatted using recommendations from the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*. All Works Cited page entries should be alphabetized, double-spaced and have a hanging indent.

In-text Citations Basics

In-text citations are citations that appear in the text of your essay. They are formatted using the author-page citation method. When citing, the author's last name and the page number(s) of the quotation or paraphrase must appear in-text. MLA uses parenthetical citations. Therefore, the author's name can appear in the sentence or at the end of the quote or paraphrases in parentheses. Regardless, the page number(s) should be at the end of the sentence in parentheses.

Titles of Sources

For titles, you should capitalize the first, the last and all principle words except for articles. Italicize titles of sources that are independent and self contained and titles of containers (e.g., the book *Gender: Antiquity and Its Legacy*). You should use quotation marks for titles of sources that are part of larger works (e.g., the article "Children's Perspectives on the Effectiveness of the Playing for Life Philosophy in an Afterschool Sports Program").

In-text Citation

One author	Holmes argues ... (15). (Holmes 15)
Two authors	(Wallace and Wray 78)
Three or more authors	(Flipppo et al. 253-54)
Classic and literary works with multiple editions	Marx and Engels argue ... (79; ch. 1). <i>Note:</i> Page numbers are always required, providing additional citation information can help readers with a different edition of a classic work. In these cases, provide the page number of your edition (making sure the edition is listed in your Works Cited page, of course) followed by a semicolon, and then the appropriate abbreviations for volume (vol.), book (bk.), part (pt.), chapter (ch.), section (sec.), or paragraph (par.).

Poem lines	<p>Vang’s poem commences with “I am a seed / Of the tree of knowledge. // I arrived here” (1-3).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> If a quote has fewer than three lines of verse, mark breaks in the short quotation with a forward slash (/), at the end of each line of the verse a space should precede and follow the slash. If there is a stanza break occurs in a quotation, mark it with two forward slashes (//).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> For citing poems, use line numbering to refer to the location of the verse you are quoting.</p>
Block quote	<p>Vang explains the life of bomblet:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To any child’s senses Of beauty and curiosity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">When a child finds me, Buried among roots of berries</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Or wild flowers, And cradles me</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In her warm hands, My heart melts. (12-18)</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Offset the quotation if it is more than three lines. Unless the poem has unusual spacing, indent the quotation half an inch from the left margin. See manual for exceptions.</p>
Play in verse	<p>Leontus scrutinized the nature of a lady: “Ere you can say she’s honest. But be’t known, / From him that has most cause to grieve it should be, / She’s an adulteress!” (2.1.76-78).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> When citing verse plays provide the necessary info to find the physical location of the quote. Refer to the act, scene, canto, book, part and line(s). You should separate the numbers with periods.</p>
Play in prose	<p>Wagner illustrates the complexity of truth during war:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">STETKO. What do you want me to say?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">MEJRA. Tell the truth.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">STETKO. Everybody said what I did was wrong. That I should die for what I did. Bad people are punished. Isn’t that the truth?</p>

	<p>Bad people go to jail. Good people, innocent people go free. I'm free. So tell me, am I bad or good? What's the truth? (25)</p> <p><i>Note:</i> When citing a prose play, provide the author's name and page number. Offset quoted dialogue in plays or screenplays. Each part of the dialogue should start with the character's name in all capital letters followed by a period. Indent citation half an inch from the left margin. Indent all subsequent lines of the character's speech an additional amount. Start another character's speech on a new line indented half an inch from the left margin.</p>
Time based media	Buffy ensured that "there's not going to be any incidents at my old school" (00:03:16-17).

Works Cited Basics

Your references should be placed on a separate page at the end of your paper. This page should be labeled as "Works Cited." "Works Cited" should be centred at the top of this page. Do not bold, italicize, underline or use quotation marks. For every source cited in your text, you must include it in the Works Cited list. Remember: your reference list provides the necessary information for the reader to locate any work cited in your text. These references should be arranged in alphabetical order and double-spaced. Each work should be aligned with the left margin, and the second and subsequent lines should have a hanging indent. All entries should include the following core elements that are applicable:

Author.
Title of source.
Title of container,
Other contributors,
Version,
Number,
Publisher,
Publication date,
Location.

Specific Works Cited Examples

Citing books

Print	Holmes, Brooke. <i>Gender: Antiquity and Its Legacy</i> . Oxford UP, 2012.
E-book	McComb, David G. <i>Sports. An Illustrated History</i> . Oxford UP, 1998. <i>Brock University Library Catalogue</i> , http://books2.scholarsportal.info/viewdoc.html?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/oxford/2009-11-30/2/0195100972 .
Print, two authors	Wallance, Mike, and Alison Wray. <i>Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates</i> . SAGE Publications, 2006.
Edited book	Dew, Kevin, and Anna Matheson, editors. <i>Understanding Health Inequalities in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> . Otago UP, 2008.
Chapter in a book	Flippo, Rona F., et al. "Test Taking." <i>Handbook of College Readings and Study Strategy Research</i> , edited by Rona F. Flippo, and David C. Caverly, Routledge, 2009, pp. 249-286.
Book published before 1900	Thoreau, Henry David. <i>Excursions</i> . Boston, 1863.

Citing poems and plays

Poem from website	Vang, Soul. "Song of the Cluster Bomblet." <i>Poets.org</i> , https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/writing-absence-voices-hmong-american-poets . Accessed on 14 Feb. 2017.
Poem in an anthology	Stevens, Wallace. "Wallace Stevens Thirteen ways of looking at a Blackbird." <i>Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama</i> , edited by Robert DiYanni, 6 th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2007, pp. 1192-1197.
Play	Wagner, Colleen. <i>The Monument</i> . Playwrights Canada Press, 1993. Shakespeare, William. <i>The Winter's Tale</i> . Cambridge UP, 1968.
Play- live performance	<i>Radium Girls</i> . Created by D.W. Gregory, directed by Philip McKee, The Marilyn I. Walker Theatre, 3 Mar. 2017, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON.

Citing articles

Electronic with DOI	Ling, Fiona M., et al. "Children's Perspectives on the Effectiveness of the Playing for Life Philosophy in an Afterschool Sports Program." <i>International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching</i> , vol. 11, no.6, 2016, pp. 780-788. <i>SPORTDiscus</i> , doi:10.1177/1747954116676104.
Electronic without DOI	Danylchuk, Karen, E., and Joanne MacLean. "Intercollegiate Athletics in Canadian Universities: Perspectives on the Future." <i>Journal of Sport Management</i> , vol.15, no. 4, 2001, pp. 364-379. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> , http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=25&sid=bbfde144-5591-406e-8ff8-8c1b706501c0%40sessionmgr102&hid=108&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#db=a9h&AN=6149728 .
Print	Adjepong, Anima. "'They are Like Badges of Honour': Embodied Respectability and Women Rugby Players' Experiences of Their Bruises." <i>Sport in Society</i> , vol. 19, no. 10, 2016. pp. 1489-1502.

Citing newspaper & magazine articles

Electronic from database	Houlder, Vanessa. "Colouring Books: Black Mark Lifted." <i>The Financial Times</i> , 17 Dec. 2016, p. 2, <i>Academic OneFile</i> , http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=st46245&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA474106541&it=r&asid=20893763f95b87536c860e7783fb9c92 .
Electronic from website:	Pedwell, Terry. "Google, Facebook Will Soon Roll Out Tools to Sift Fake Canadian News." <i>Welland Tribune</i> , 24 Jan. 2017, http://www.wellandtribune.ca/2017/01/24/google-facebook-will-soon-roll-out-tools-to-sift-fake-canadian-news . Accessed 8 Feb. 2017.
Print:	Monson, Mike. "Paper plans to publish news on Facebook." <i>The Champaign Urbana News-Gazette</i> , 16 Sept. 1999, pp. 1, 8.

Electronic magazine article	Weir, Kirsten. "Forgiveness Can Improve Mental and Physical Health." <i>Monitor on Psychology</i> , vol. 48, no. 1. Jan. 2017, p. 30, http://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/01/ce-corner.aspx . Accessed 10 Feb. 2017.
Article with no author	"Internet Charmed by a Small Band of Women Who March in a Tiny N.S. Village." <i>The Chronicle Herald</i> . 24 Jan. 2017, http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1435027-internet-charmed-by-small-band-of-women-who-marched-in-tiny-n.s.-village .

Citing internet sources

Page on a website	Fong, Jonathan. "How to Dry Rose Petals." <i>eHow</i> , http://www.ehow.com/how_2293715_dry-rose-petals.html . Accessed 16, Feb. 2017.
Post from an online discussion group, forum or blog post	MaMa13 [Brit Mar]. (2006, April 2). "Re: Favourite Childhood Games" <i>Childhood Games</i> , 6 Jan. 2017, http://chgames.com/games/06/forum . Accessed 17 Jan. 2017.
Website of an organization or government	<i>Book Adventures</i> . Sylvan Learning, 2017, http://www.bookadventure.com/home.aspx . Accessed 16 Feb. 2017.
YouTube video	"Why citing matters." <i>YouTube</i> , uploaded by A-Z Learning Services, 15 Dec. 2015, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vja83KLQXZs . <i>Note:</i> Don't cite the author twice. If the author's name is the same as the uploader, cite it once. If it is different, cite the author's name before the title.

Citing film & television

Film	<i>Casablanca</i> . Directed by Michael Curtiz, Warner Brothers, 1942.
Single episode from	"The Unaired Buffy Pilot." <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> , written by Joss Whedon, directed by Joss Whedon, Mutant Enemy, 1996.

a television broadcast	
Television Series	<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> . Created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.