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Documenting Sources: MLA Style – 9th Edition

You must document your sources anytime that you use information that is not your own. We have provided examples of the most commonly used sources below, but you may need to adapt your citations as needed, or refer to the *MLA Handbook,* for more complicated sources. Check with your instructor for any variations.

IN-TEXT DOCUMENTATION FORMAT:

Note: You must document in-text when paraphrasing or quoting from the work of others. Most electronic sources do not include page numbers from the original print version. If the source provides them, page numbers should be at the end of the sentence in parentheses, otherwise they are omitted.

In-text citation for a source with one author
First instance in prose: Jamal Lister claims that "stained glass work is an act of meditation" (23).
Subsequent instances in prose: Lister asserts that stained glass is an art form unto itself (27).
Parenthetical citation: "Stained glass work is an act of meditation" (Lister 23).

In-text citation for a source with two authors
First instance in prose: Indya Bliss and Damon Thomas have noted many similarities between lyrics and poetry (22).
Subsequent instances in prose: Bliss and Thomas stress that "ethnomusicology examines music in a social context" (147).
Parenthetical citation: Interest in rap music has continued to rise (Bliss and Thomas 75).

In-text citation for a source with three or more authors
Citation in prose: Ray Martinez and colleagues argue that another housing bubble is coming (13).
 OR - Citation in prose: Ray Martinez and others argue that another housing bubble is coming (13).
Parenthetical citation: "The housing market is very volatile" (Martinez et al. 22).

In-text citation for a source with no author and no page numbers
(**Note:** For parenthetical citation, the title may be shortened, stopping at the initial phrase, noun phrase, clause, or punctuation mark, whichever applies, ignoring initial articles. Titles will be in quotation marks or italicized, depending on how they appear in the works cited list. See the *MLA Handbook*, section 6.10, for additional guidance.)
Parenthetical citation: Colonial house plans often included traditional designs and methods ("Architectural Design").

In-text citation for an indirect source (source within a source)
Remi Taylor has noted "several discrepancies in twin studies of the past" (qtd. in Cho 56).

In-text citation for time-based audio and visual recordings
Parenthetical citation: "Body language is up for interpretation" (Zhu 1:04-05).

In-text citation for two or more works with the same author
(**Note**: The title must be added to the in-text citation. The *MLA Handbook* shows three ways to do this—see section 6.8 for additional guidance.)
One way to do the citation: (Morrison, *Beloved* 35).

WORKS CITED FORMAT:

General Formatting Tips:

- A **Works Cited** list should begin on a new page and be double-spaced. Each citation should be formatted with a hanging indent of half an inch.

- **Alphabetize** the works cited by the last name of the first author listed for each citation. If no author, alphabetize by the first word of the title other than **A**, **An**, or **The**.

- **Missing citation elements** are generally omitted from citations; however, **items without titles** should include a description in place of the title. Descriptions are done in plain text with only the first word and proper nouns capitalized.

- **Author names** for sources with a **single author** should follow this format: last name first, then a comma followed by the first name. For sources with **two authors**, reverse the first author's name, follow with a comma and the word **and**, and give the second name in the normal order. When a source has **three or more authors**, reverse the first author's name, follow with a comma and et al. (which means "and others").

- **First author names without a surname** should not be reversed (ex. Lady Gaga).

- When an **organization is both author and publisher**, skip the author element and begin the citation with the title. List the organization as the publisher.

- **Titles** should be styled with all main words capitalized, with the exception of descriptions in place of sources without a title.

- **Dates for source types requiring a complete date of publication** should abbreviate all months but May, June, and July. All other months use a three-letter abbreviation except for Sept. for September. Full dates of publication are displayed in day-month-year style; periodicals using seasons in publication dates include the season in lowercase, as in the following examples: 3 Mar. 2021, June 2020, spring 2019.

- **If a source has both a DOI and a URL**, include only the DOI, beginning with **https://doi.org/**

- **A source found in a database without a DOI** should use a permalink if available (look for a **Permalink, Bookmark, Shared URL**, etc.). If no DOI or permalink, use the URL for the database up to the .com (for example, online.salempress.com).

- **URLs** should drop the http:// or https:// unless it is a DOI.

- **An original date of publication for a republished work** is generally included as a supplemental citation element only for historical works. An example would be a well-known classic novel that has been republished numerous times. If used, the date follows the title of the source and ends with a period. For the most part, **information about where a reprinted work has been published before** should be omitted from the citation.

- **An access date** is intended to be used mainly with online items without a date of publication. If needed, it is placed at the end of the citation and is styled this way: Accessed 25 Jan. 2021.

- **All citations end with a period**, even if the last element is a URL.

CORE WORKS CITED ELEMENTS:

From MLA Style Center: https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/

Citation Elements	Common Examples
1. **Author.**	individuals, artists, organization/corporate author (if different from publisher)
2. **Title of Source.**	book titles, article titles, individual webpage titles, poems, short stories
3. **Title of Container,**	anthologies, reference books, periodicals, websites
4. **Contributor,**	editors, translators, directors, illustrators, performers
5. **Version,**	edition
6. **Number,**	one volume in a numbered set, periodical volume and issue numbers
7. **Publisher,**	book/e-book publishers, website publisher (if different from site name)
8. **Publication Date,**	full date as found on source
9. **Location.**	article page numbers, URLs, DOIs

(**Note:** The item you are citing may include a container nested inside a larger container, such as a journal article found in a database. Add any applicable elements 3-9 from the above list to the end of the citation to account for the second container.)

Books:

Book by a single author

Patel, Priya. *How to Communicate: Gender Differences at Work*. 2nd ed., Oxford UP, 2021.

eBooks found in a database or on a website (Example shows two authors)

Jackson, Emily K., and Betty Friedman. *Women Artists*. Thompson Publishers, 2020. *ProQuest Ebook*

   Central, ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/carrollcc-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1805190.

Book by three or more authors

Singh, Alan Q., et al. *The CIA: An Unauthorized History*. Hartwick Books, 2021.

Book with no author (or the organization/corporate author is also the publisher)

Heart Disease. 5th ed., American Heart Association, 2021.

Work in an anthology

Spencer, Mark, Jr. "The Fifth Column." *Collected Science Fiction Stories,* edited by Shen Fu and Lynn

   Nord, 4th ed., Pluto Books, 2019, pp. 140-57.

Article/entry in an encyclopedia/reference book in a database, no DOI

Huang, Janipher. "Body Image." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Diets*, edited by Betina Vengali, 3rd ed., vol. 2,

Gale, 2019, pp. 150-55. *Gale eBooks*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX2491000044/

GVRL?u=cccl_main&sid=GVRL&xid=4ddcf928.

(**Note:** The URL above is a permalink found in the database.)

Journals, Magazines, and Newspaper Articles:

Basic format for articles. See examples below for typical variations.

Author, First name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title*, volume number, issue number, full date of publication,

page range (if given). *Database Name* or *Website Name* (if applicable), https://doi.org/xxx (if

applicable). Permalink or URL (minus http://) if no DOI.

Article with two authors from a database, with a DOI

Yee, William, and Lola Sinclair. "Native American Art: Historical Perspectives." *Art in America,* vol. 90, no.

6, spring 2020, pp. 35-55. *EBSCOhost*, https://doi.org/10.1093/ohw012.

(**Note:** The citation above could also use the actual EBSCO database name of *Academic Search Premier*. The *MLA Handbook* allows *EBSCOhost* as a substitution if the specific database name is not visible on the screen.)

Article with three or more authors from a database with a permalink, no DOI

Cohen, Daniel, et al. "The Road to a COVID-19 Vaccine." *Men's Health*, Mar. 2021, pp. 29-33. *ProQuest*

Consumer Health, www.proquest.com/magazines/road-to-covid-vaccine/docview/2511283398/se-

2?accountid=42022.

(**Note**: If a database article has no DOI or permalink, use the URL for the database up to the .com.)

Article from the open web, with no author, no DOI

"West Virginia Floods Cause 23 Deaths and Vast Wreckage." *The New York Times*, 24 June 2018,

www.nytimes.com/2018/06/25/us/west-virginia-floods.html.

General Websites:

Webpage with author (and the publisher is different from the website title)

Achebe, Malik, and Isa Amani. "Animals in African Art." *African Art*, Art Research Institute, 2020,

www.ari.org/animals-african-art.html.

Corporate / Organization / Government webpage with no personal author

"Electrical and Electronics Engineers." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, U.S. Dept. of Labor, 2 June

2021, www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/electrical-and-electronics-engineers.htm.

(**Note**: When the author and publisher are the same, you can omit the author and begin the citation with a title. The organization is listed as the publisher. When a government agency is a publisher and it appears on the source with subagencies listed, the name may be truncated to include just the primary agency with typical abbreviations. So, in the above example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is a subagency of the Department of Labor, is omitted from the citation.)

Alternative formats for government webpage with no personal author

(**Note**: When citing two or more sources from the same government entity, you have the option to include the agency as both author and publisher, even when the author and publisher are the same, so that these items will appear near each other in the works cited list. Under this option, all levels of subagencies would be included in the author field. The examples below show two ways the same government source may be cited.)

Standard format:

"Bipolar Disorder." *National Institute of Mental Health*, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Jan.

2020, www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/bipolar-disorder.

Alternative format:

United States, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute

of Mental Health. "Bipolar Disorder." *National Institute of Mental Health*, U.S. Dept. of Health and

Human Services, Jan. 2020, www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/bipolar-disorder.

Canvas:

Material created by instructor

Badu, Kahlil. "The War of 1812." *Canvas,* Carroll Community College, 8 July 2021,

carrollcc.instructure.com/courses/3323/modules/items/3398890. Lecture notes.

Material from authors other than instructor

(**Note**: Links on Canvas course pages that lead to other websites do not include Canvas information in the citation. For items that are contained in Canvas, cite the correct format for the source using as much information as available. The course name and instructor's name may be added as supplemental citation elements immediately following the title.)

Wong, Astrid. "Lucky Lottery." Survey of World Literature, taught by Rachel Levine. *Canvas*, Carroll

Community College, spring 2021, carrollcc.instructure.com/courses/3311/items/3391289.

Misc Sources:

Viewpoint essay from Opposing Viewpoints database

Newhoff, David. "Copyright and the Internet." *Cybercrime*, edited by Noel Merino, Greenhaven Press,

2020. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010969202/

OVIC?u=cccl_main&sid=OVIC&xid=c5f.

(**Note**: Information about where a reprinted work has been published before should be omitted from the citation.)

Dictionary of Literary Biography article from Literature Resource Center database

Labor, Earle. "Jack London." *American Realists and Naturalists*, edited by Donald Pfizer, Gale, 1982. Vol.

12 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. *Gale Literature Resource Center*, link.gale.com/apps/

doc/H1200001579/LitRC?u=cccl_mainlitrc&sid=bookmark-LitRC&xid=fada6b2f.

(**Note**: This is an example of a multivolume reference source where each volume in the set has an individual title.)

Personal interview

Rivera, Nahl. Personal interview with the author. 31 May 2021.

(**Note**: Use this format for interviews that you have conducted.)

YouTube video or other streaming video

"How to Paint a Landscape." *YouTube,* uploaded by Rebecca Joshi, 20 Nov. 2020,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxUzGqHEUmkmko.

"Hunger Strike." *Tiananmen Square Revisited*, Eagle Rock Entertainment, 2020. *Films on Demand,*

digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=106200&xtid=10505&loid=34810.

(**Note:** This is a segment of a film found in the Films on Demand database with a permalink URL. If quoting from a video, please see page one of this document for an in-text example of how to include a time stamp.)

Presentations at conferences or meetings

Jones, Zakiya. "Origins of Kabuki Theatre." Performing Arts Festival, 6 Sept. 2020, Athens, Georgia.

(**Note**: The conference name is added as a supplemental citation element immediately following the presentation title.)

Podcast episode

"The Evolution of Modern Dance." *Dance Fanatics*, hosted by Kiki Rodriguez, season 2, episode 4, 7

      Dec. 2020. *Apple*, podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id5743298.

Images, basic variations for online sources

(**Note**: In-text requirements for images vary widely, depending on the assignment. Be sure to check with your instructor for clarification about image citations.)

All citation elements present (author, date, image title):

Creator of image. "Title of Image." *Website Title*, date, URL. Medium if not obvious from the image title.

Harris, Quinta. "Space Probe Liftoff." *Spaceship Universe*, 4 Oct. 2017, www.spaceshipuniverse.com/

      spaceprobes. Photograph.

Source has an unknown author, but includes an image title and date:

"Title of Image." *Website Title*, date, URL. Medium if not obvious from the image title.

"Continents." *The World in Maps*, 2021, www.wim.org/continents. Map.

Source has no author, title, or date:

Made-up description of untitled image including medium. *Website Title*, URL.

Photograph of a biologist taking samples. *Biology in Action*, www.bioaction.org.

(**Note:** When a source is untitled, make up a generic description for it, including the medium. Capitalize the first word and any proper nouns in the description. Do not italicize or enclose in quotation marks.)

Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers (oral histories and teachings):

Last name, First name. Nation/Community. Treaty Territory if applicable. City/Community they live in if

      applicable. Topic/subject of communication if applicable. Date Month Year.

Cardinal, Delores. Goodfish Lake Cree Nation. Treaty 6. Lives in Edmonton. Oral teaching. 4 Apr. 2004.

This handout adapted from:

MLA Handbook. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

and

MacLeod, Lorisia. "More Than Personal Communication: Templates for Citing Indigenous Elders and

        Knowledge Keepers." *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies,* vol.

        5, no. 1, 2021. https://doi.org/10.18357/kula.135.