

Citing Using MLA Style –2018

Modern Language Association documentation style (MLA) is primarily used for writing in the humanities which might include philosophy, the fine arts, literature and language classes.

Documentation has three functions:

- To give credit ethically for information that the author has found and used from another source
- To show the quality of the source in relation to the author's current work to document the academic conversation taking place
- To show the reader how to find the actual source used by the author if he/she so chooses

The MLA 8th Edition has moved from prescribed documentation formats for specific source types to using a general citation format that can be applied to every possible source. The style is based on core elements common to most sources. Documenting has two parts: a Works Cited page and the in-text parenthetical references noted in a paper which identify those materials borrowed from another source. Every work cited incorporates the following core elements: author (if known), title of source, title of container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date and location. Each writer must decide which elements are relevant to his/her paper and source and cite based on what is most useful for identifying and locating that work. NOTE: punctuation after each element is indicated in parentheses for emphasis. The parentheses are NOT included in the citation.

AUTHOR(.):

One author: Last Name, First Name. Middle names and initials go after the author's first name.

Two authors: The first listed author is the same as one author followed by a comma and then *and*. The second author is listed first name first, followed by a period.

Example: Krupa, Martha, and Jason Pratt.

Three or more authors: List the first author last name, first name followed by a comma and et al. meaning "and others"

Example: Krupa, Martha, et al.

If the author[s] have another role such as editor or translator, add that role after the author's name, followed by a period.

Example: Krupa, Martha, and Jason Pratt, editors.

If no author is named, begin the citation with the title of the source in quotation marks.

TITLE OF SOURCE(.):

Titles of sources that are contained in a larger source such as a poem in an anthology, an episode in a TV series or an article in a newspaper or journal are put in quotation marks with a period inside the closing parenthesis.

Example:

Rafoth, Ben. "Faces, Factories, and Warhols: A r(Evolutionary) Future for Writing Centers." *The Writing*

Center Journal, vol. 35, no. 2, Spring/Summer 2016, pp. 17-29.

Titles of works ongoing or complete in themselves such as newspapers, magazines, books, movies, TV series are put in *italics* followed by a period. [*The Writing Center Journal*]

The in-text parenthetical reference for this work might be (Rafoth 17).

TITLE OF CONTAINER(,):

When the source is part of a larger work, that larger work is considered a container which holds the source. You should italicize the title of the container and follow it with a comma. [See Rafoth example.]

Evaluate: You should ask yourself if this container is the best source of information for your topic? Will this source lend credibility to your paper? A book of essays edited by a known scholar may certainly lend authority to your work. A general website like Wikipedia may or may not be the best source of information. You would have to see who the author of the selection is, and what sources did that author use to lend authority to his/her entry. It's usually better to go directly to the primary source than to use a secondary source like Wikipedia.

In some cases a source may be part of a container that is also in a larger container. For example, an article in a journal (container) which is found on a database (container) would have two containers in the citation.

Example:

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *Proquest*, doi:1-0.1017S0018246X06005966.

In the above citation, both the journal and the database are containers. NOTE: If you have a DOI for your source, it is sufficient after the database name. If there is no DOI given, it is recommended you include a permanent link to that database.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS(,):

When other contributors are important to your research or to identify your specific source, you should include them in your citation after the title and introduce each with a description of their role (for example, adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, introduction by, narrated by, performance by, translated by). NOTE: Identifiers such as editor, director, translator, etc. are no longer abbreviated.

Example:

Foucault, Michael. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

VERSION(,):

Often sources are published in varying versions or editions. It's important to indicate which version or edition your work is based on.

Examples:

Brooks, David. "The Medium is the Medium." *New York Times*, Late Ed., 9 Jul. 2010, p. A23, Proquest, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/09/opinion/08/brooks.html>.

Miller, Casey, and Kate Swift. *Words and Women*. Updated ed., HarperCollins Publishers, 1991.

NUMBER (,):

Some sources are part of numbered editions such as volumes or issues in journals, multi-volume works, episodes in a series or seasons of a show.

Example:

Graesser, A. C. and N. K. Person. "Question Asking During Tutoring." *American Educational Research Journal*, vol. 31, no. 1, 1994, pp. 104-137.

PUBLISHER(,):

The organization or person primarily responsible for producing or distributing your source is considered the publisher. If there is more than one publisher relevant to your research, list them both in your citation separated by a forward slash(/). It is not necessary to name the publisher of a magazine/journal or a work published by the author or a website whose title is the same as the publisher or websites not involved in producing the work such as JSTOR, YouTube or ProQuest.

Examples:

Daniels, Greg, and Michael Schur, creators. *Parks and Recreation*. Deedle-Dee Productions/Universal Media Studios, 2015.

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Harris, Charles "Teenie." *Woman in Paisley Shirt behind Counter in Record Store*. Teenie Harris Archive, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, teenie.cmoa.org/interactive/index.html#date08.

NOTE: It is no longer necessary to name the city of publication before the publishing company.

PUBLICATION DATE(,):

The date should be day/month/year. Journals may publish quarterly or monthly. The citation date should reflect that. If using an online source, use the date of the source you consulted as it may be different than the date of a print version.

Example:

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, pp. 92-97.

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The*

Atlantic, 28 Dec. 2014, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.

Sources sometimes appear at different times in different locations, print versus online. If a source has more than one date of release, use the date most relevant to your use of it. If not sure, go with the original publication date. With different dates and locations may come different publishers or distributors as well. Be consistent so your readers can reference the source you used.

Example:

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

If referencing the date of airing, you would have a more specific date:

Example:

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, WB Television Network, 14 Dec. 1999.

LOCATION(.):

Location varies depending on the genre being cited. Pages identify location in books, magazines, newspapers and journals. On the web you might use a URL or a DOI. A speech might be the location of the venue. You would need a city for the location of a piece of artwork.

Examples:

Harris, Mickey. "Making Our Institutional Discourse Sticky: Suggestions for Effective Rhetoric." *Writing Center Journal*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2010, pp. 47-71.

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

Bearden, Romare. *The Train*. 1975, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Atwood, Margaret. "Silencing the Scream." *Boundaries of the Imagination Forum*. MLA Annual Convention, 29, Dec. 1993, Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Address.

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS:

Type of work may be included.

Example:

Fresh Air. Narrated by Terry Gross, National Public Radio, 20 May 2008. Transcript.

[indicates you did not hear the program, but read the transcript of it.]

Date of Access might suggest the version of a work you consulted and is especially crucial if the source provides no date specifying when it was produced or published.

Example:

“Under the Gun.” *Pretty Little Liars*, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. *Hulu*,
www.hulu.com/watch/511318. Accessed 23 July 2013.

NOTES: