

# Citing in MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Format

Additional information can be found on the NWTC Library Citation Guide <http://nwtc.libguides.com/citations>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your instructor or the librarian.

## Paper Format

MLA Style Center <https://style.mla.org/formatting-papers/>

Unless your teacher gives you other instructions, this is how the paper should be set up:

- Double-spaced
- 1 inch margins on all sides
- 12pt. legible font (ex. Times New Roman)
- In the header, add consecutive page numbers to the upper right hand corner.

## In Text Citations

When you quote or paraphrase from a source (book, article, etc.), you need give credit to that source by inserting a citation into the body of the paper. This citation typically consists of the author's name and page number in parentheses. If you are using an online source without page numbers, the citation will consist of only the author's name.

Another option is to include the author's name in the text itself.

### Examples:

The article goes on to say, "People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are" (Fagundes 1098).

Fagundes goes on to say, "People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are" (1098).

If a source has no author, start the parenthetical citation with the title of the item. Use a shortened version of the title instead of an author name. Italicize book titles and put article titles in quotation marks.

### Example:

Full title of article:

"New Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment in Anxiety and Related Emotional Disorders"

Citation:

("New Approaches" 10)

### Long quotes

Quotations longer than four lines need to be set apart from the rest of the text. Do not use quotation marks. The quote should be in a new paragraph and set 1/2 inch from the left margin (Tab once). Your parenthetical citation should come **after** the closing punctuation mark.

## Works Cited Page Formatting

- This is a separate page at the end of your paper. Each citation in the text must be listed on the Works Cited page; each listing on the Works Cited page must appear in the text.
- The title of the page should be centered and labeled Works Cited.
- All text is double-spaced, just like the rest of the paper.
- List the citations alphabetically by author.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent. To do this, highlight the citations and press CTRL-T.

## Works Cited Examples

### Print Book

Bradley, Heather. *Design Funny: A Graphic Designer's Guide to Humor*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed., HOW Books, 2015.

Grazer, Brian, and Charles Fishman. *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life*. Simon & Schuster, 2015.

### Book Chapter

Kang-Brown, Jason, et al. "Zero-Tolerance Policies Do Not Make Schools Safer." *School Safety*, edited by Noah Berlatsky, Greenhaven Press, 2016, pp. 50-52.

### E-Book

Klausen, Jytte. *The Cartoons That Shook the World*. e-book, Yale University Press, 2009.

### Newspaper Article from Online Database

Hallett, Vicky. "Prancercise, a Celebration of Self-Expression." *The Washington Post*, 18 Sept. 2013.

*EbscoHost*, ezproxy.nwtc.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsgov&AN=edsgcl.343280158&site=eds-live&scope=site.

### Scholarly Journal Article ([with DOI](#)) from Online Database

Barlow, David H., and Katherine Ann Kennedy. "New Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment in Anxiety and Related Emotional Disorders: A Focus on Temperament." *Canadian Psychology*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2016, pp. 8-20. *ProQuest*, dx.doi.org/10.1037/cap0000039.

### Scholarly Journal Article (without DOI) from Online Database

Curthoys, Ann. "The Magic of History: Harry Potter and Historical Consciousness." *Agora*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2014, pp. 23-31. *EbscoHost*,

ezproxy.nwtc.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=102630773&site=eds-live&scope=site.

### Article or Page on a Web Site

So let's say I want to cite this CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/index.html>

One option is to use these core elements:

Author. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Publication Date, Location.

United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Basics about Diabetes." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 31 Mar. 2015, [www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html).

Another possible option is to leave off any author. I recommend this when you are using two or more web source with the same "author", especially government entities.

"Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

"Basics about Diabetes." *Diabetes Home*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 31 Mar. 2015, [www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html).

## Overview of Changes to MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

In the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook, the focus was on publication formats--many, many publication formats (book, book chapter, journal article, webpage, section of a webpage, YouTube video, etc.). And each format had its own set of rules for creating the citation. What to do if you had a source in a format not covered by the Handbook? Good luck forcing the citation to fit an existing format!

In the new 8th edition, the focus is on core elements common to most sources (author, title, date, etc.) and universal, flexible guidelines.

The [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) sums it up nicely: "These updated MLA guidelines are based on a simple theory: once you know the basic principles of style and citation, you can apply that knowledge widely, and generate useful documentation for any type of publication, in any field."

Core elements are the basic pieces of information that should be common to all sources, from books to articles to DVDs to webpages to Tweets.

The 9 MLA core elements are:

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

- Elements are shown in the order in which they should appear.
- Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown, UNLESS it is the final element, in which case it will end in a period.
- If you cannot find one of the elements, simply omit it. You no longer need to put n.d. when you can't find a publication date on a website, or n.p. if there is no publisher or sponsor.
- Note that medium of publication (Web, Print) is no longer a core element!
- See <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/> for three citation examples with annotations.