Getting Started

- Always check with your instructor for his or her preferences for citations and formatting.
- There are specific ways to cite books, journal, magazine, newspaper, web sites, pamphlets, movies, blogs, pictures, government documents, and so forth.
- You don’t have to memorize all the rules. There are hundreds of MLA style rules and lots of exceptions to the rules.
- There are three steps to using MLA style for your paper:
  1. Formatting (double space, one inch margins, 12 pt font in Times New Roman, page number in the upper right-hand corner after last name)
  2. Citing materials in the text of your paper
  3. Listing the materials alphabetically at the end of your paper (under Works Cited)

In-Text Citations

In-text citation must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited; these parenthetical references must match the corresponding information. You should identify the location of the borrowed information as specifically as possible, yet keep the citation brief. Identify sources by author and, if necessary, by title. The statement “Booth has devoted an entire book to the subject” needs no in-text citation if it is the only work by that author in your list of works cited. If you quote, paraphrase, or otherwise use a specific passage in a book or article, give the relevant page or section (e.g., paragraph) number.

Example 1. Tannen has argued this point (178-85).
Example 2. Tannen This point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).
Example 3. Others, like Kakobson and Waugh (210-15), hold the opposite point of view.
Example 4. Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jakobson and Waugh 210-15).

If you cite an entire work whether a print source, non-print source, or electronic publication which has no page numbers include in the text rather than in the parentheses the name of the person that begins your corre-

Example 1. Fukuyama’s *Our Posthuman Future* includes many examples of this trend.
Example 2. Kurosawa’s *Rashomon* was one of the first Japanese films to attract a Western audience.
Example 3. William J. Mitchell’s *City of Bits* discusses architecture and urban life in the context of the digital telecommunication revelation.
Works Cited

Works Cited Tips

- Start a new page. Use alphabetical order, and double spacing.
- Use hanging indentation: Highlight the text. Go to: Format → Paragraph → Indentation → Hanging
- *Italicize* major titles like journals, books, movies, DVDs, and so forth.
- Do not italicize the title of journal articles, book chapters, and web pages.
- MLA style now requires all sources to have a publication marker. For example, books receive the marker “print” after the citation. URL is not required in Works Cited anymore, instead, you must write “Web” before the date of access in the entry as a publication marker.
- MLA style is flexible about the inclusion of some information and even the ordering of the elements, so there may be several options for recording key features of a work.

I can’t find the example work cited I need. What should I do? When you cannot find the example work cited entry in the MLA Handbook, follow the example that is most like your source, and be consistent as much as possible with the option of your choice in recording key features of a work.

Book

The first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, and second and subsequent lines are indented. This is called hanging indentation.

First author’s name {Last name, First name}, other authors’ names, if any, in order of appearance {First name then Last name}. Title of Book. Place of publication: Publisher, Date. And type the word Print.

Book


Book Chapter, Essay, Story or Poem in a Book

Journal or Magazine Article

Basic citation information here follows the same rules as for books. Publication information should be taken directly from the journal or magazine. Omit any article (a, an, or the) that precedes the title of the periodical. For magazines published every week or two weeks, give the complete date (beginning with the day and abbreviation of the month, except May, June, and July), followed by a colon and the inclusive page numbers of the article.

Author’s name, if available (Last name, First name). “Title of Article.” Title of Journal Volume Number (Year of Publication): Page Numbers. And type the word Print.


Newspaper Article

Give the name of the newspaper as it appears on the masthead, do not include any article (a, an, or the) that precedes the name. If the city of publication is not included in the name of a locally published newspaper, add the city in square brackets. Nationally published newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal do not need the city of publication added.

Author’s name, if available (Last name, First name). “Title of Article.” Name of Newspaper [City of publication, if needed] date, edition, if named: page numbers. And type the word Print.


Online Periodical (Magazine/Newspaper/Trade Publication) Article

Online periodicals include both the name of the website in italics and the website publisher. Note that some sites have different names than their print formats, such as ones that include a domain name like .com or .org.

Author’s name, if available (Last name, First name). “Title of Article.” Website. Website Publisher. Publish Date. Type the word Web. And the date of access.

Online Database Scholarly Journal Article

Cite online journal articles from an online database as you would a print one. Provide the database name in italics. List the medium of publication as Web and end with the date of access.

Author’s name, if available {Last name, First name}. “Title of Document.” Information about Publication. Information about Electronic Database. And type the word Web. And the date you retrieved the article.


Online-only Publication

For articles that appear in an online-only format or in databases that do not provide a page number, use the abbreviation n. pag. for no pagination. End the citation with the medium of publication, Web, and the date of access.

Author’s name, if available {Last name, First name}. “Title of Document.” Information about Publication Volume Number (Year of Publication): n. pag. And type the word Web. And date of access.

# Need More Help?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Success Center</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Campus: First floor # 83, Learning Resources Bldg, 527-7646</td>
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<td>East Mesa Campus: Second floor #201, Academic Resources Bldg, 528-7275</td>
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<td><a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/74/7/01">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/74/7/01</a> → MLA Formatting and Style Guide</td>
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<td><a href="http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm">http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm</a></td>
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<td>If you find another guide, make sure it is MLA 7th Edition</td>
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<tr>
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<td>E. Mesa Campus Library, Office 203-I, 528-7355</td>
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<td>Ken Keeton, Virtual Services Librarian</td>
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<td>E. Mesa Campus Library, Office 203-H, 528-7354</td>
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<td>Yubao Li, Instructional Librarian</td>
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<td>Central Campus Library, Office 260-A, 527-7556</td>
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