MLA 8th Edition Documentation Style
by Amy Herman, Library Faculty

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Academic writing standards require you to credit all sources that you use to write a paper, report, or study. The Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style provides a guideline for properly crediting your sources by requiring notes in the text of your work that point the reader to an alphabetical list of your sources, called a “Works Cited” list. Properly citing your sources of information allows a reader to locate the original sources of information you used in your writing and will also help you avoid plagiarism.

New! ► For more detailed information about the 2016 update for MLA documentation style, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th ed., located in the library’s Reference section (Ref 808.027 ML699m8), or the Purdue University online writing lab website: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ or the Modern Language Association website: https://style.mla.org/

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Parenthetical documentation directs the reader to the specific sources of information that you are referencing in the body of your paper. These listings must direct the reader to a particular work listed on your “Works Cited” page. In most cases the author’s last name and a specific page number, in parentheses, are enough to identify the source you used and its location within that source. If the item has a corporate author, treat the corporate entity as the author.

Example: During the 1980s global inflation remained steady at around 15 percent (Rogoff 49).

If you are already referring to the author’s name in the text of your paper, then you need only cite the specific page number in parentheses.

Example: According to Rogoff, “global inflation averaged 15 percent in the 1980s” (49).

WORKS CITED CITATIONS

The basic components of an MLA citation are:

**Book**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Chapter or Essay if Applicable.” Title of Book, Publisher, Year.

**Article, print version**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical, vol. #, no. #, Date of publication, pp. # - #.

**Article, from database**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical, vol. #, no. #, Date of publication, pp. # - #. Database Name, Permalink/URL or DOI.

**Website**

Author’s Last name, First name if available. “Title of Web Page.” Title of Website, Date if available, URL.

Rev. 9/22/2016
PRINT / VIDEO RESOURCE EXAMPLES

New! ► Publisher location is no longer required for books, nor is the format (“Print.”)
New! ► A capital P can replace the word “Press” in the publisher name.

Book with one author

Book with two authors

** Note: if there are three or more authors, list the first author that appears, followed by “et al.”

Essay, story, or poem in a collection

Reference/Encyclopedia article

Newspaper article

Magazine article

Journal article

Government publication

Television or radio program

DVD/Video
*Smoke Signals*. Directed by Chris Eyre, performance by Adam Beach, Miramax, 2005.
ONLINE / ELECTRONIC RESOURCE EXAMPLES

New! For electronic sources, include a permalink, URL, or DOI at the end of the citation. Do not include http://.
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**Article from a subscription database (i.e. ProQuest), with DOI**

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**Article from a website, no author, where info may change at any time**

**Entire website, no individual author**

**Online government publication**

**Email**

**Twitter / Facebook**
@jk_rowling (J.K. Rowling). “Thrilled that Tom Burke will be playing Cormoran Strike in the BBC adaptation of @RGalbraith’s novels!” *Twitter,* 7 Sept. 2016, twitter.com/jk_rowling/status/773437777191038976.

**YouTube**
"What’s Happening to Honey Bees?" *YouTube,* uploaded by SciShow, 6 Apr. 2016,youtu.be/Zgc5w-xyQa0.
Your "Works Cited" page(s) should include your last name and page number in the upper right hand corner ½” from the top, and the title "Works Cited" centered on the page 1” from the top. Entries should be in alphabetical order by author, double-spaced throughout, and subsequent lines of individual entries are indented ½”. Use an easily readable typeface such as Times New Roman and set the typeface to a standard size such as 12 point.

Works Cited


“What’s Happening to Honey Bees?” *YouTube*, uploaded by SciShow, 6 Apr. 2016, youtu.be/Zgc5w-xyQa0.