MLA Style Overview

A short guide to citing sources using MLA style (8th edition)

Commonly used in the humanities, the latest edition of the MLA Handbook no longer emphasizes the publication format, relying instead on the following core elements and simplified punctuation between elements:

- Author.
- Title of source.
- Title of container (the larger whole, e.g., collection, periodical, etc.).
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location (e.g., page number, URL, doi).

To introduce the bibliography, the phrase ‘Works Cited’ should be centered (not in bold or underlined). Acknowledge authors, whose words or ideas you have used, in two places in your essay: in the ‘Works Cited’ section and in the body of the essay via in-text citations.

Formatting Checklist (Works Cited & In-text Citations)

- Double-space entries.
- Indent the second line of each work (hanging indent).
- Italicize titles.
- For English titles and subtitles, capitalize all title words (except articles, prepositions and conjunctions when they fall in the middle of a title).
- For French titles and subtitles, capitalize only the first word and all words normally capitalized (e.g., people and places).

Books

One author

In-text: (Munro 39)

Two authors

In-text: (Coates and Ewen 30)
Multiple editions
In-text: (Dickason 102)

Edited book
In-text: (Bloom 117)

Book chapter
In-text: (Won 130)

E-book
In-text: (Goldman 75-80)

Articles
E-journal
In-text: (Heller 42)
Print journal

In-text: (Pigott and Kalbach 12)

Magazine article

In-text: (Gladwell 33)

Newspaper article in print

In-text: (Gagnon A11)

Newspaper article online

go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=EAIM&sw=w&u=yorku_main&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA172282083&it=r&asid=a6e6bf58adc1f1213b3a6498a2009c6.

In-text: (Brody, par. 3)

Web Pages
Entire website

In-text: *(Occupy Toronto)*

Web page
“Exploring the Historical Consciousness of Canadians.” *Canadians and Their Pasts/Les Canadiens et leurs passés*, www.canadiansandtheirpasts.ca/.

In-text: (“Exploring”, pars. 1-2)
Encyclopedias

Print

In-text: (“Conflict Theory” 135)

Digital

In-text: (Peters, par. 2)

Film & Media

Film

In-text: (Force of Nature 00:03:16-17)

TV

In-text: (Butt)

Government Documents

Authored, Print

In-text: (Hurley and Wherrett 3)
Digital, Corporate author, government report
In-text: (Canada, Office of the Auditor General 13)

Indirect Sources
One author quotes another
e.g. In a 2010 book by K. Anderson, you find a quote taken from Karl Marx’ Collected Works (1975).
In the body of your essay, cite both authors, indicating the author of the original quote (Marx) in your sentence, and the author in whose work you found the quote (Anderson), in an in-text citation.
Marx astutely predicted that the railroad would “become the forerunner of modern industry” (qtd. in Anderson 22).

In the Works Cited list, cite only the author in whose secondary source you found the quote (Anderson).

For more information on how to cite all types of sources using MLA style, see:
https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3591392
https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3890607