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MLA Style 8th Edition Overview

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

In-Text Citations

- Use parenthetical citations
- Should contain the author(s) last name(s). For sources with three or more authors, list only the first author's name, and replace the additional authors names with et al.
- Page numbers are always required (applies to sources where either paraphrasing or quoting applies)

Works Cited

- 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)
- Double-space entries.
- Indent the second line of each work (hanging indent)

- Should be double-spacing between entries
- Italicize titles.

Books

One author

Munro, Alice. *Too Much Happiness*. McClelland and Stewart, 2009.

In-text: (Munro 39)

Two authors

Coates, Colin M., and Geoffrey Ewen. *Introduction aux études canadiennes: Histoires, identités et cultures*. Pr de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2012.

In-text: (Coates and Ewen 30)

Multiple editions

Dickason, Olive Patricia. *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*. Rev. ed., Oxford UP, 2006.

In-text: (Dickason 102)

Edited book

Bloom, Harold, editor. *Margaret Atwood*. New ed., Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2009.

In-text: (Bloom 117)

E-book

Goldman, Marlene. *Rewriting Apocalypse in Canadian Fiction*. McGill-Queen's UP, 2005. *Scholars Portal Books*, books.scholarsportal.info/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/gibson_crkn/2009-12-01/4/407624.

In-text: (Goldman 75-80)

Book chapter

Won, Kin Ho. "A Gay Actor with Multiple Scripts: Impression Management Strategies to Comply with Traditional Chinese Family Norms." *Skeletons in the Closet*, edited by Aysan Se'ver and Jan Trost, Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2011, pp. 121-38.

In-text: (Won 130)

Articles

E-journal

Heller, Monica. "Langues, communauté et identité: le discours expert et la question du français au Canada." *Anthropologie et sociétés*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2007, pp. 39-54. *Érudit*, doi:10.7202/015981ar.

In-text: (Heller 42)

Print journal

Pigott, Brooke S., and Madeline A. Kalbach. "Language Effects on Ethnic Identity in Canada." *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2005, pp. 3-18.

In-text: (Pigott and Kalbach 12)

Magazine article

Gladwell, Malcolm. "The Tweaker." *The New Yorker*, 14 Nov. 2011, pp. 32-35.

In-text: (Gladwell 33)

Newspaper article, print

Gagnon, Lysiane. "The Tuition Protesters' Fellow Travellers." *Globe & Mail*, 21 May 2012, pp. A11+.

In-text: (Gagnon A11)

Newspaper article, online

Brody, Jane E. "Mental Reserves Keep Brain Agile." *New York Times*, 11 Dec. 2007, p. F7. *Expanded Academic ASAP*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A172282083/AONE?u=yorku_main&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=a6247e8

In-text: (Brody)

Course Materials

Lecture Slides

Lockhart, Graham. "Robocop: American Jesus." *eClass*. York University. 7 Dec. 2020. eclass.yorku.ca. Powerpoint slides.

In-text: (Lockhart, slide 2)

Course Kit

Vernon, Karina. "Black Civility: Black Grammars of Protest on the Canadian Prairies 1905-1950." Course kit for HUMA 3315: Black Literatures and Cultures in Canada, compiled by Andrea Medovarski, York University Bookstore, Winter 2020, pp. 131-144.

In-text: (Vernon, p. 137)

Web Pages

Entire website

Occupy Toronto. 2015. www.occupytoronto.ca.

In-text Citation: (*Occupy Toronto*)

Web page

Geist, Michael. "Blocking is Back: Why Internet Blocking is the Next Big Canadian Policy Battle." *Michael Geist*. Mar. 17, 2021. www.michaelgeist.ca/2021/03/blocking-is-back.

In-text: (Geist)

Encyclopedias

Print

"Conflict Theory." *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, general editor, George Ritzer, vol. 1, Sage Publications, 2005, pp. 134-35.

In-text: ("Conflict Theory" 135)

Digital

Peters, Carolyn J. "Aboriginal Mothering." *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, edited by Andrea O'Reilly, SAGE Publications, 2010, *Sage Knowledge*. doi: 10.4135/9781412979276

In-text: (Peters)

Wikipedia

For Wikipedia, use the URL for the archived version of the page. You can find it by selecting the "view history" tab and clicking on the most recent date.

"Lester B. Pearson." In *Wikipedia*. (2020, Feb. 18).
en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lester_B._Pearson&oldid=941354416.

In-text: ("Lester B. Pearson")

Film & Media

In-text citations for film and media will include the title of the work or shortened version of it, and where referring to a specific segment of a film or TV episode, the time range of relevance in the format hour: minutes: seconds, as shown below.

Film

Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie, directed by Sturla Gunnarson, Entertainment One / National Film Board of Canada, 2011.

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

TV Series

Butt, Brent, creator. *Corner Gas: Season Two*. PrairiePants Productions, 2005.

In-text: (Butt)

TV Series Episode

“World’s Biggest Thing.” *Corner Gas*, written by Brent Butt, directed by David Storey, executive producers, Butt Brent, David Storey and Virginia Thompson, season 4, episode 10, PrairiePants Productions, 25 February, 2004.

In-text: (“World’s Biggest Thing” 00:15:00-00:17:22)

YouTube Video

Trudeau, Justin. “Speech from the Throne”. *YouTube*, uploaded by Justin Trudeau – Prime Minister of Canada, 5 December 2019, youtu.be/KLHQAi36sZk.

In-text: (Trudeau)

Digital Image

Morey, Hal. *Sun Beams Into Grand Central Station*. 1930. *Gettyimages Gallery*, [gettyimagesgallery.com/images/sun-beams-into-grand-central-station](https://www.gettyimagesgallery.com/images/sun-beams-into-grand-central-station).

In-text: (Morey)

Poetry & Plays

Poem

Oliver, Mary. “The Kitten.” *American Primitive*, Little Brown, 1983, p. 6.

In-text: (Oliver)

Oliver, Mary. "In Blackwater Woods." *American Primitive*, Little Brown, 1983, pp. 82-83.

In-text: (Oliver 82)

Poetry Citations: Notes

1. For short poems (a page or less), do not cite any number in the text.
2. For poems longer than a page and which also use line numbers or other parts, cite the line numbers or other parts, instead of page numbers.
Use the form (line 57) or (lines 119–20) in the first citation. Do not use the label "line" or "lines" in subsequent citations.
If other parts (books, etc.) are numbered as well as lines, combine the numbers without a label. For example, (9.19) for book 9, line 19.
3. If the poem is longer than a page but does not use line numbers or other parts, cite page numbers if available.

Play, Stand-Alone

If you are citing a published stand-alone play, you would use the same format as a book or e-book, as shown in this example for a print play:

Friel, Brian. *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*, Faber and Faber, 1965.

In-text: (Friel, 23-25)

Play, in Collection or Anthology

Jung, Hansol. "Cardboard Piano." *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color: An Anthology*, edited by Roberta Uno, Routledge, 2017, pp. 3-29.

In-text: (Hansol 24)

Government Documents

Authored, Print

Hurley, Mary C., and Jill Wherrett. *In Brief: The Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. PRB99- 24E, Library of Parliament, Parliamentary Research Branch, 2000.

In-text: (Hurley and Wherrett 3)

Digital, Corporate author, government report

Canada, Office of the Auditor General. *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 2011: Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*. 2011, cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/NU_Auditor_General_2011.pdf

In-text: (Canada, Office of the Auditor General 13)

Digital, Corporate author, government agency report

Canada Council for the Arts. *What We Heard: Summary of Key Findings: 2013 Canada Council's Inter-Arts Office Consultation*. 2013, publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/canadacouncil/K23-65-2013-eng.pdf

In-text: (Canada Council for the Arts, 2011)

Indirect Sources

One author quotes another

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

Marx astutely predicted that the railroad would “become the forerunner of modern industry” (qtd. in Anderson 22).

For more information on how to cite all types of sources using MLA style, see:

Complete style guide: *MLA Handbook, 8th ed., 2016*.

ocul-yor.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_YOR/vg268k/alma991007618089705164