# MLA Style 9th Edition Overview

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MLA Style 9th 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

Below appears a summary of selected highlights relating to the formulation of in-text citations and works cited, as applies to MLA 9th ed. For a comprehensive treatment of these guidelines, refer to the Complete style guide: MLA Handbook, 9th ed., 2021 or to the online version of this handbook. Both the print and online editions of the MLA Handbook, 9th ed., 2021 are available at YorkU Libraries.

In-Text Citations

- Use citations in your prose or in parentheses
- When mentioning authors in prose, use full names, first name(s) and last name(s), the first time mentioned. Use last name(s) only in parentheses.
- Use “and” between two names
- For sources with three or more authors, list only the first author’s name, and replace the additional authors names with “et al.” in parentheses. In prose list all the names or use “and others” or “and colleagues”, instead of “et al.”
• Normally include page numbers (or other location markers, e.g., line numbers, time stamp) in parentheses to indicate a specific part of the work is quoted or paraphrased. Some exceptions to this rule apply including:
  o Works that are only 1-page in length
  o Resources with no pagination (i.e. blog post)
  o Time stamps should be used for quoted/paraphrased video content

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 within and between entries
• Indent the second line of each work (hanging indent)
• Italicize titles

Resource Types

Please note that this guide provides selected examples of commonly used resource types (see list below). For a comprehensive list of resource types, refer to Appendix 2 from the online publication of the MLA Handbook 9th edition.

Books

One author
In-text: (Munro 39)

Two authors
In-text: (Coates and Ewen 30)

Three or more authors
In-text: (Higham et al. 94)

Corporate author (when corporate author is the publisher)
In-text: (OECD 12)

Multiple editions
In-text: (Dickason 102)

**Edited book**

In-text: (Bloom 117)

**E-book (published with a URL)**

In-text: (Goldman 75-80)

**Book chapter**

In-text: (Won 130)

**Articles**

**E-journal (from a database, with a DOI)**

In-text: (Heller 42)

**E-journal (from a database, with a URL/permalink)**

In-text: (McDonald et al. 386)

**Print journal**

In-text: (Pigott and Kalbach 12)

**Magazine article**

In-text: (Gladwell 33)
**Newspaper article, print**
In-text: (Gagnon A11)

**Newspaper article, online**
In-text: (Brody)

**Course Materials**

**On a learning management system (eClass, Canvas, etc.)**
You can add a supplemental element at the end of an entry to indicate a format or file type, such as: Lecture, PDF download, *PowerPoint* presentation, Slides, Video recording, etc.

eclass.yorku.ca/pluginfile.php/1811393/mod_page/content/18/EN%201902%20Week%201%202021.pptx
. *PowerPoint* presentation.
In-text: ("Lecture 1", slide 6)

**Course kit**
In-text: (Vernon 137)

**Web Pages**

**Entire website**
In-text Citation: (*Occupy Toronto*)

**Web page**
In-text: (Geist)
Encyclopedias

Print


In-text: (“Conflict Theory” 135)

Digital


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.


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


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

TV series

Corner Gas: Season Two. Created by Brent Butt, PrairiePants Productions, 2005.

In-text: (Corner Gas)

TV series episode


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

YouTube video

In-text: ("Three Degrees" 00:07:41-8:45).

**Digital image**


In-text: (Morey)

**Poetry & Plays**

**Poem**


In-text: (Oliver)


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:


In-text: (Friel 23-25)

**Play, in collection or anthology**


In-text: (Hansol 24)
Government Documents

**Authored, print**

In-text: (Hurley and Wherrett 3)

**Digital, corporate author, government report**

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

**Digital, corporate author, government agency report**

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

**Indirect Sources**

**One author quotes another**

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, 9th ed., 2021* [print and online versions]