SPARK Student Papers & Academic Research Kit

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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:
    - Works that are only 1-page in length
    - Resources with no pagination (i.e. blog post)
    - 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

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

In-text: (Munro 39)

Two authors

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

In-text: (Ewen and Coates 30)

Three or more authors

Higham, John, et al. *History.* Prentice-Hall, 1965.

In-text: (Higham et al. 94)

Corporate author (when corporate author is the publisher)

OECD Reviews of Public Health. OECD Publishing, 2020.

In-text: (OECD 12)

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)

Chapter in a book

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)

E-book (downloaded)

Citations for downloaded e-books closely resemble those for physical books, but the term "Ebook" or the reader type (i.e. Kindle) is added before the publisher.

Fallis, George. *Multiversities, Ideas and Democracy*. Ebook, University of Toronto Press, 2007.

In-text: (Fallis 29-30)

E-book (with URL)

For e-books with URLs or DOIs, the format is similar to those used for webpages, but add the database name before the URL.

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)

Articles

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

Heller, Monica. "Langue, 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,* https://doi.org/10.7202/015981ar.

In-text: (Heller 42)

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

McDonald, Steve, et al. "Networks of Opportunity: Gender, Race, and Job Leads." *Social Problems*, vol. 56, no. 3, Aug. 2009, pp. 385-402. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2009.56.3.385.

In-text: (McDonald et al. 386)

Journal article, print

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 et Kalbach 12)

Magazine article, print or online

For a magazine article consulted online, include a URL at the end of the citation. Specific page numbers may not be indicated for online articles but should be cited if available.

Gladwell, Malcolm. "The Tweaker: The Real Genius of Steve Jobs." *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

Online lecture slides (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.

"Lecture 1." EN 1950: Beyond Google: Research Methods in English Studies, taught by Lisa Sloniowski. *eClass*, York U, 11 Jan., 2020, 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

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, winter 2020, York U.

In-text: (Vernon 137)

Web Pages

Entire website

Occupy Toronto. 2015, www.occupytoronto.ca.

In-text Citation: (*Occupy Toronto*)

Web page, authored

Northrup, David. "Canadians and Their Pasts: The Survey." *Institute for Social Research, York University,* 2015, http://www.yorku.ca/isr/projects/pasts/survey.html.

In-text: (Northrup)

Web page, no author or date

An access date for an online work should generally be provided if the work lacks a publication date or if you suspect that the work has been altered or removed.

"Our ArQuives." *The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives,* https://arquives.ca/arquives. Accessed 7 April 7 2022.

In-text: ("Our ArQuives")

Blog post

Bowen, Victoria. "A Book of the Week: Flora of the Colosseum of Rome." *Through the Revolving Door: Fisher Blog,* 17 February 2022, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto Libraries, https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/fisher-blog/ia-book-week-flora-colosseum-rome.

In-text: (Bowen 2021)

Generative AI

When citing generative AI content, describe how you used the tool in a note, the text, or another suitable location. Treat the company that produced the AI as the publisher, the name of the AI as the container, and a description of the prompt or generated text as a title. If you create a publicly available link for the exchange, provide that link instead of a generic one.

Text Generation

"Explain the impacts of ChatGPT on academic integrity" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 20 Feb. 2024, chat.openai.com/chat.

In-text: ("Impacts of ChatGPT on Academic Integrity")

Image Generation

"A photograph of a busy library" prompt. *Bing Image Creator,* DALL-E 3, Microsoft, 20 Feb. 2024, www.bing.com/images/create.

In-text: ("Photograph of a Busy Library")

Encyclopedias

Print

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

In-text: ("Conflict Theory" 135)

Online

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." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia,* Wikimedia Foundation, 18 Feb. 2020, 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

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

In-text: (*Corner Gas*)

TV series episode

"World's Biggest Thing." *Corner Gas*, written by Brent Butt, directed by David Storey, Butt et al., executive producers, season 4, episode 10, PrairePants Productions, 25 Feb. 2004.

In-text: ("World's Biggest Thing" 00:15:00-00:17:22)

YouTube video

"See What Three Degrees of Global Warming Looks Like." *YouTube*, uploaded by The Economist, 30 Oct. 2021, https://youtu.be/uynhvHZUOOo.

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

Digital image

Morey, Hal. *Sun Beams Into Grand Central Station.* 1930. *Gettyimages Gallery,* 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: (Jung 24)

Government Documents

Government publications emanate from many sources but in general can be treated like other sources written by an organization:

- If there are no personal author(s), use the government agency as it appears in the source as a corporate author. Cite as the author the government agency that issued the document, listing the entities from largest to smallest: state the name of the government first, followed by the name of the agency or agencies. Alphabetize the agency as it appears in the document and do not reverse the name (for example, use: United Nations, not Nations, United).
- If the agency has many component parts, you can truncate it, keeping only the name of the primary agency (for example: United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics can be shortened to just: United States Department of Justice).
- At the end of entries for legislative documents, provide as much additional information as possible, such as the number and session of Parliament, the chamber (Senate or House of Commons), and the type and number of the publication.

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)

Government report, online

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)

Government agency report, online

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)

Legislative bill, statute, or regulation, online

United States, Congress, House. Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016. *Congress.gov*, www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6394/text. 114th Congress, 2nd session, House Resolution 6394, passed 6 Dec. 2016.

In-text: (United States Congress, House)

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

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