

# MLA Style Guide

This style guide is intended to be a quick reference to the most common types of MLA citations used in research papers. If an example of a citation is **not** given, please consult the *MLA Handbook* (9<sup>th</sup> ed). One copy of the handbook is available on Reserve at the Access Services Desk. If you have any questions, contact your instructor, a librarian, or the Office of Student Success.

## *General Principles*

The editorial styles, rules or guidelines set forth by individual professors take precedence over guidelines in the *MLA Handbook*. Here are some general principles to follow:

1. Leave margins of at least 1 inch on all sides of every page
2. Double space the text, including the Works Cited
3. In-text, parenthetical citations include the author's last name (if an anonymous work, the first one or two words from the title), and the page number cited. Leave the author's name out if it is clearly stated in your sentence
4. When your works-cited list includes more than one work by an author, the parenthetical citation should include part of the title, i.e., (Author, Title Page Number).

## *Citing Secondary Sources*

A secondary source is a source cited in another source. In the text, use “qtd. in” to indicate the source you actually consulted. For example:

Ravitch argued that high schools are pressured to act as “social service centers, and they don’t do that well” (qtd. in Weisman 259).

On the Works Cited page, list the secondary source that the original work was discussed in. In the case of the above example, include the reference for the source by Weisman.

## Common MLA Citation Examples

For each of the following examples, both the **works-cited citation (WC)** and the **in-text citation** are given. These parenthetical citation examples are all based on one work per author(s) and no mention of the author in the sentence containing the citation. For any citation type not listed here, please consult the *MLA Handbook*.

### Books<sup>1</sup> and Other Print Media

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#### **Single Author/Editor**

<b>WC:</b>	Wilson, Frank R. <i>The Hand: How Its Use Shapes the Brain, Language, and Human Culture</i> . Pantheon, 1998.
<b>In-text:</b>	(Wilson 35)

#### **Multiple Authors/Editors**

<b>Two Authors</b>	
<b>WC:</b>	Ehrenreich, Barbara, and John Ehrenreich, editors. <i>The American Health Empire: Power, Profits and Politics</i> . Vintage, 1971.
<b>In-text:</b>	(Ehrenreich and Ehrenreich 123-30)
<b>Three or More Authors</b>	
<b>WC:</b>	Hall, Stuart, et al. <i>Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies</i> . Blackwell, 1996.
<b>In-text:</b>	(Hall et al. 96-125, 128)

#### **Corporate Authorship**

<b>WC:</b>	American Medical Association. <i>The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine</i> . Random House, 1989.
<b>In-text:</b>	(American Medical Association 76)

#### **Unknown or Anonymous**

<b>WC:</b>	<i>A Guide to Our Federal Lands</i> . National Geographic Society, 1984.
<b>In-text:</b>	( <i>Guide</i> 112)

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<sup>1</sup> City of publication may be given in place of the publisher name for a pre-1900 book

### ***Work in an Anthology***

**WC:** Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

**In-text:** (Harris 26)

### ***Translation***

**WC:** Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

**In-text:** (Foucault 26)

### ***An Edition***

**WC:** Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetoric for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.

**In-text:** (Crowley and Hawhee 29-31)

### ***Multivolume Work***

**WC:** Quintilian. *Institutio Oratoria*. Translated by H. E. Butler, vol. 2, Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980.

**In-text:** (Quintilian)

\*\*If the volume you are using has its own title, cite the book without referring to the other volumes as if it were an independent publication.

**WC:** Churchill, Winston S. *The Age of Revolution*. Dodd, 1957.

**In-text:** (Churchill)

### ***Encyclopedia Articles***

**WC:** "Ideology." *The American Heritage Dictionary*. 3rd ed., 1997.

**In-text:** ("Ideology")

### ***The Bible***

**WC:** *The New Jerusalem Bible*. Edited by Susan Jones, Doubleday, 1985.

**In-text:** (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10)

**Interview**

**WC:** Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

**In-text:** (Smith)

**WC:** Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-50.

**In-text:** (Gaitskill 129-130).

**Films**

**WC:** *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. Directed by Rian Johnson, Walt Disney Studios, 2017.

**In-text:** (*Star Wars*)

**A Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph**

**WC:** Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800, Museo del Prado, Madrid.

**In-text:** (Goya)

**Print Journals and other Periodicals****Print Scholarly Journal Article**

**WC Format:** Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, Pages.

**WC:** Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly*, vol. 13, no. 3-4, 1981, pp. 77-80.

**In-text:** (Barthelme 78)

**Print Magazine Article**

**WC Format:** Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, Pages.

**WC:** Whitaker, Mark. "Getting Tough at Last." *Newsweek*, 10 May 1993, pp. 22.

**In-text:** (Whitaker 22)

**Print Newspaper Article**

**WC:** Lohr, Steve. "No Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." *New York Times*, 3 Apr. 1998, late ed., p. C1+.

**In-text:** (Lohr C3)

## Electronic Resources

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### \*\*A note on DOIs, permalinks, and URLs

Web addresses are often subject to change (how many times have you clicked on a link and received an error message?) and on occasion, items can be found in several places on the web (e.g., on multiple databases), MLA encourages the use of citing containers such as Youtube, MLA International Bibliography, or Hulu, in order to easily direct your reader back to the source for verification. However, MLA only requires the “www” in the web address, so eliminate all https:// when including a web address.

In MLA 9<sup>th</sup> ed., DOIs (digital object identifiers) are the preferred type of web addresses for online items. Most database records for journal articles include a DOI, so cite the DOI if it is available.

If no DOI is available – which will be the case for many online magazines, newspapers, and books – look for a permalink or permanent URL which is a shortened, stable version of a URL. This means the URL will not change on you. Look for a “share” or “cite this” button to see if a permalink is available.

If you cannot find a DOI or permalink, then use a URL. If you must use a URL, you may also need to include an access date. Access dates are optional in MLA 9<sup>th</sup> ed., so check with your professor to see if they require an access date.

### \*\*A note on page numbers

Not all online documents will have page numbers. When this happens, use par. or pars. to reference the paragraph number(s) in place of page numbers. For items from e-readers such as Kindle e-books, indicate the chapter number if possible. See the manual for further guidance.

### **An Entire Website**

<b>WC Format</b>	Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). <i>Name of Site</i> . Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), DOI (preferred), permalink, or URL.
<b>WC:</b>	Brawley, Lisa, and James F. English, editors. <i>Postmodern Culture</i> . U of Virginia, 2002, <a href="http://www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/">www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/</a> .
<b>In-text:</b>	(Brawley and English)

### ***A Page on a Website***

**WC:** "Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, [www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview](http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview).

**In-text:** ("Athlete's Foot" par. 3)

### ***E-Books***

**WC:** Child, Maria L., editor. *The Freedmen's Book*. Ticknor and Fields, 1866. *HathiTrust Digital Library*, [hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044013553797](http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044013553797)

**In-text:** (Child)

**WC:** Silva, Paul J. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*. E-book, American Psychological Association, 2007.

**In-text:** (Silva 178)

**WC:** Doer, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*. Kindle ed., Scribner, 2014.

**In-text:** (Doer ch. 2)

### ***Article in an Online Scholarly Journal***

**WC:** Tolson, Nancy. "Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians, and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children's Literature." *African American Review*, vol. 32, no. 1, 1998, pp. 9-16. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/3042263](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3042263)

**In-text:** (Tolson 15)

### ***Article in an Online Magazine***

**WC:** Brooks, David. "The Culture of Martyrdom." *The Atlantic Online*, June 2002, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/06/the-culture-of-martyrdom/302506/>

**In-text:** (Brooks)

***An Online Image of a Physical Object (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)***

**WC:** Klee, Paul. *Twittering Machine*. 1922. Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Artchive*,  
[www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering\\_machine.jpg.html](http://www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering_machine.jpg.html).

**In-text:** (Klee)

***An Image Found Only Online (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)***

**WC:** Adams, Clifton R. "People relax beside a swimming pool at a country estate near  
Phoenix, Arizona, 1928." *Found*, National Geographic Creative, 2 June 2016,  
[natgeofound.tumblr.com/](http://natgeofound.tumblr.com/).

**In-text:** (Adams)

***A Tweet***

**WC:** @tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this  
campaign." *Twitter*, 22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m., [twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/  
160996868971704320](https://twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/160996868971704320).

**In-text:** (Brokaw)

***A YouTube Video***

**WC:** "8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker,  
6 June 2016, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs).

**In-text:** (8 Hot Dog Gadgets)