

MLA, 8TH EDITION: BRIEF CITATION GUIDE

MLA is short for **Modern Language Association**. **MLA Style** is used to format papers and to cite sources within the Liberal Arts and Humanities. This guide illustrates MLA citations for commonly used information sources. For other examples, citation rules, or style questions refer to the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, available at the Library Information Desk.

CITATION ELEMENTS: The following are generally needed to create a citation for a source.

- Author or Editor or Compiler – List by last name, followed by first and middle names
 - Two authors authors/editors/compilers. – List first author by last name, first name; second author in normal form, i.e., first name, last name. Include the word “and” before the second author’s name.
 - Three authors/editors/compilers or more – List the first author followed by “et al.” [Example: Papworth, Andrew, et al.]
- Title of the work – Capitalize all the main words.
 - Article title – Put the article title (e.g., an article from a periodical, chapter title of a book, an essay or other selection from an anthology, collection, or reference work) in “quotation marks.”
 - *Publication title* – Put publication title in *italics* (i.e., title of a book, magazine, journal, or video, etc.).
- Publication information – List publisher name; keep publishing information minimal. Examples: omit **Inc.**, **Books**, etc.; replace the words University Press with **UP**, e.g., Stanford **UP**; if the University Press is separated by other words, e.g., University of Chicago Press, replace them with **U** and **P**, e.g., **U** of Chicago **P**.
- Publication date & time – Format dates as: Day Month Year. The month should be abbreviated except for May, June, July. For sources with a specific time given, format as hour/minutes/ seconds , HH:MM:SS (EX: 09:45:21)
- Page numbers – List the page or range for multiple pages. [EXAMPLES: p. A1, pp. 132-51]
- Online resources – MLA requires that a location for an online source be provided; include one of the following items:
 - **DOI** (Digital Object Identifier) – DOI is a unique string of numbers and letters assigned to a journal article to make them easier to locate; it is the preferable location. If your article has a DOI, include it in your citation; EXAMPLE: doi: 10.230d7/775628. If there is no DOI, include the permalink URL.
 - **URL** – Include the permalink (generally applies to sources in online databases) or the Web address if there is no permalink URL; do not include the “http://” or “https://”
- Date accessed – Include the date of access for any online resource

IN-TEXT OR PARENTHETICAL CITATION:

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. Generally, this means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text after said quotation or paraphrased text. If the author’s name is included in the cited text, then only the page appears at the end. EXAMPLES: (Karhl and Roland-Holst 147), (Papworth et al. 420); EX. video clip: (“How to Feed” 00:03:40-55)

WORKS CITED LIST:

- Start a separate page at the end of your paper and title it **Works Cited** at the center of the page. If the list contains only one entry, make the heading **Work Cited**.
- List citations alphabetically by the first word of the citation (ignore any initial *a*, *an*, or *the*).
- Double space within and between each citation entry.
- Use a hanging indent, i.e., one half-inch from the left margin, if a citation has more than one line.

Citation Format for Books [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

Author(s). "Chapter/Selection Title." [if using a part of the book; in quotation marks] **Book Title** [in italics]. **Author/editor** of book, **Vol. no., Publisher, Year of Publication, pp.** page numbers [if using a part of the book]. **Name of the eBook database** [for online source], **DOI, permalink URL or Web address** [for online source]. **Accessed Date** [Day Mon Year] [for online source].

Book with two authors (print book)

Kahrl, Fredrich, and David Roland-Holst. *Climate Change in California: Risk and Response*. U of California P, 2012.

eBook from an online database with more than two authors, editors, or compilers and permalink URL

O'Brien, Karen L., et al. *Adapting to Climate Change: Thresholds, Values, Governance*. Cambridge UP, 2009. *EBSCO eBook Collection*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=286489&site=ehost-live. Accessed 18 May 2017.

Chapter/selection from an anthology or reference eBook in an online database with editor, volume & permalink URL

Coulson, Martin. "Sustainability." *Encyclopedia of Environmental Change*, edited by John A. Matthews, vol. 3, SAGE Reference, 2014, pp. 1068-69. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GURL&sw=w&u=oran78789&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CCX6105103787&it=r&asid=f441f6c1b0290a9999e2bfdfdec41004. Accessed 6 Apr. 2017.

Citation Format for Articles [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

Author(s). "Article Title." [in quotation marks] **Title of Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper** [in italics], **vol.** volume number, **no.** issue number, **publication date, pp.** page numbers. **Name of database** [for online source], **DOI, permalink URL, or Web address** [for online source]. **Accessed Date** [Day Mon Year] [for online source].

Magazine article (print source)

Schuur, Ted. "The Permafrost Prediction." *Scientific American*, vol. 315, no. 6, Dec. 2016, pp. 56-61.

Journal article by three or more authors from an online database with DOI (online source)

Papworth, Andrew, et al. "Is Climate Change the Greatest Threat to Global Health?" *Geographical Journal*, vol. 18, no. 4, Dec. 2015, pp. 413-22. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1111/geoj.12127. Accessed 19 Apr. 2017.

Report in an online database with URL

Adams, Jill U. "Energy and Climate Change." *CQ Researcher Online*, CQ Press, library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqr_ht_climate_change_2016. Accessed 23 May 2017.

Citation Format for Web Sources [NOTE: To maximize available page space, citation examples are not double spaced.]

Author(s). "Webpage or Post Title." [in quotation marks] **Title of Website** [in italics], **Company or organization responsible for the site, contributor that posted video, date of publication or latest update, URL.** **Accessed Date** [Day Mon Year].

Webpage with no author

"Future of Climate Change." *Climate Change Science*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Dec. 2016, www.epa.gov/climate-change-science/future-climate-change. Accessed 20 Apr. 2017.

YouTube video clip from the Web with name of person/organization that posted or uploaded the video

"How to Feed the World in 2050: Actions in a Changing Climate." *YouTube*, uploaded by CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), 28 Mar. 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjtll5B1zXI. Accessed 20 Apr. 2017.

Map or chart (born digital)

"Rate of Temperature Change in the United States, 1901–2015." *United States Environmental Protection Agency*, Aug. 2016, www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-us-and-global-temperature#. Accessed 1 Apr. 2017. Map.