

BUSSE LIBRARY: GUIDE TO MLA CITATION FORMAT

The **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Eighth Edition (2016)** (MLA) is commonly used by students and scholars in the liberal arts and humanities, including speech, languages, literature, history, philosophy, religious studies, and theology.

The basic formats for several of the common items included in bibliographies, reference lists, or endnotes are illustrated here. A bibliography or “works cited list” is an alphabetical list of the items cited in the body of the paper.

Table of Contents:

Books	p. 2	Media	p. 10
Magazines	p. 4	Interviews	p. 10
Journals	p. 6	Websites	p. 11
Newspapers	p. 8	In-Text Citing	p. 12

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT MLA STYLE AND THIS GUIDE

The MLA Handbook adopts italics in the place of underlining. This convention even applies to titles of works noted within citations. **With the eighth edition of the manual, the practice of including a format designation (web, print, etc.) no longer applies.**

Formatting the Works Cited Page

The references list appears on a separate page at the end of the paper. Center the title “Works Cited” an inch from the top of your page. Double-space between this title and your first entry.

NOTE: Our models reflect spacing and indentation requirements for MLA works cited list items. Begin each entry flush with the **left margin**; if an entry requires more than one line, indent all succeeding lines **one-half inch** from the left margin. This style is known as a **hanging indent** (Section 2.7). Double-space all citations.

How to Create the Hanging Indent

To create the hanging indent for a single item, place the cursor adjacent to the first character of the affected line. Now hold down the **CONTROL** key while pressing **TAB** simultaneously.

To create the hanging indent **for an entire works cited list**, select the full list and right click, selecting “Paragraph.” Under “Indentation” and the “Special” category, select “Hanging.” The full list will now be formatted to feature hanging indents, where applicable.

BOOKS: PRINT & ELECTRONIC MODELS

For books, MLA stresses using a book's title page to derive author, title, and publisher information. Use an author's name as it is provided on the title page; use initials if they are included. Italics denote titles of works; capitalize the first word, last word, and all principal words of the title (p. 25). Shorten a publisher's name following new guidelines (Section 1.6.3). No city or state information is required but can be provided for special situations or reader understanding.

ONE AUTHOR (Part One, p. 21)

Larson, Erik. *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. Crown Publishers, 2015.

Vance, J.D. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*. HarperCollins, 2016.

TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (Part One, p. 21)

NOTE: List authors in same order shown on the book's title page. Reverse name of first author (last name, first), place a comma, and then provide the other names in normal form. Separate author names with a comma. If there are three or more authors, note only the first author and then add *et al.* ("and others").

(TWO AUTHORS)

Levitt, Steven D., and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. William Morrow, 2009.

(THREE OR MORE AUTHORS)

Braskamp, Larry A., et al. *Putting Students First: How Colleges Develop Students Purposefully*. Anker Publishing, 2006.

CORPORATE AUTHOR (Part One, p. 25)

World Water Assessment Programme, United Nations. *Water for People, Water for Life: A Joint Report by the Twenty Three UN Agencies Concerned with Freshwater*. UNESCO, 2003.

NO AUTHOR (Part One, p. 24)

NOTE: Begin entry with title of book. Alphabetize entry by its title.

New York Public Library American History Desk Reference. Macmillan, 1997.

EDITOR OR COMPILER [no author] (Part One, p. 23)

NOTE: Begin entry with name of editor or compiler, followed by “editor” or “compiler.”

Satin, Joseph, editor. *Shakespeare and His Sources.* Houghton Mifflin, 1966.

BOOK PUBLISHED IN A SECOND OR LATER EDITION (Part One, p. 39)

NOTE: Details for later editions are noted following title of book. After the edition, place a comma and then show publisher details.

Lima, Carolyn W., and John A. Lima. *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children’s Picture Books.* 5th ed., R.R. Bowker, 1998.

CHAPTER OR WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY (Part One, p. 27)

NOTE: Begin with the author and title of the part of the book being cited. Italicize the title of the larger work and provide its publishing details. Conclude with page numbers for the associated work.

Alvarez, Julia. “Bilingual Sestina.” *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*, edited by Ilan Stevens. W.W. Norton, 2011, pp.1750-1751.

ARTICLE IN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA [REFERENCE WORK] (Part One, p. 27)

NOTE: If article is signed, give author’s name first. If the article has no author, give the title first. Conclude with page numbers for the article.

Davis, Anthony. “Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.” *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare*, edited by Michael Dobson and Stanley Wells. Oxford UP, 2001, pp.179-183.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT [corporate author model] (section 2.1.3)

U.S. Government, Department of Commerce, Economics, and Statistics Administration,
 Bureau of the Census. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012*. U.S.
 Department of Commerce, 2011.

ELECTRONIC MODEL (E-book) (Part One, p.34)

NOTE: An electronic book -- accessed with software on a personal device or computer -- is considered a unique version and is noted with "e-book" as the format or the applicable type (Kindle, Nook, etc.). Further details are available -- <https://style.mla.org/2016/06/23/citing-an-e-book/>

Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Kindle ed.,
 Crown, 2016.

National Research Council. *Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth*.
 National Academies Press, 2015. EBSCO e-book,
search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=991081&site=ehost-live

MAGAZINE ARTICLES: PRINT & SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

NOTE: For magazines, give the complete publishing date (date, month and year, if available) and abbreviate the month, followed by a comma and page number(s), preceded by "p." or "pp."

Include volume and issue numbers, if they are provided. If an article is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number and a plus ("+") sign.

PRINT MODELS (Part One, p. 30)

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, NO AUTHOR

“Do Business Right in Korea’s Free Economic Zones.” *Site Selection*, vol. 61, no. 3,
May 2016, p. 10.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, ONE AUTHOR

Speciale, Alessandro. “Pope Francis Reconfirms Directive to American Nuns.” *Christian Century*, vol. 130, no. 10, 15 May 2013, pp. 18-19.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

NOTE: Include both names, as shown, for articles with two authors. For articles with three or more authors, note only the first author and then use “et al.”

Catalini, Michael, et al. “Poll: How Damaging is the IRS Controversy to Obama?”
National Journal, 17 May 2013, p. 16.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE (Part One, p. 32)

NOTE: When citing articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title of the database (**italicized**), and the article’s **permalink**. The URL should **NOT** include angle brackets; http:// and https:// are omitted.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Jaeger, Jaclyn. “Volkswagen Could Spend \$14.7B for Emissions Scandal.” *Compliance Week*, vol. 13, no. 151, Aug. 2016, p. 10. *EBSCOhost*,
search.ebscohost.com/login.asp
x?direct=true&db=bth&AN=117142549&site=ehost-live&scope=site

Nichols, John. “Democratic Socialism.” *Nation*, vol. 301, no. 21/22, 23 Nov. 2005, pp.
22-25. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.asp
x?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=110804828&site=ehost-live&scope=site

MAGAZINE ARTICLES FROM A PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE (Part One, p. 48)

NOTE: For an article retrieved from a publisher's website, include the article's URL, with new address restrictions, followed by a period. Be sure to remove underlining (hyperlink) formatting.

Chafkin, Max. "Warby Parker Sees the Future of Retail." *Fast Company*, 2 Feb. 2015,
www.fastcompany.com/3041334/most-innovative-companies-2015/warby-parker-sees-the-future-of-retail.

Slaughter, Anne-Marie. "Why Women Still Can't Have it All." *The Atlantic*, 13 June 2012,
www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/309020/.

JOURNAL ARTICLES: PRINT & SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

NOTE: Begin with author names, listed as shown on the article, followed by the article title in quotation marks. Italicize the journal title and include volume and issue numbers. Year of publication follows with a comma before page numbers. If a journal does not use volume numbers, cite the issue number instead. DOI information is not required for print versions of articles.

PRINT MODELS (Part One, p. 45)

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, ONE AUTHOR

Santos, Bielinski M. "Irrigation, Mulches, and Fumigants on Tomato Performance in Sandy Soils." *International Journal of Vegetable Science*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2013, pp. 274-281.

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

(TWO AUTHORS)

Lu, Lingyu, and Cameron G. Thies. "War, Rivalry, and State Building in the Middle East."

Political Research Quarterly, vol. 66, no. 2, 2013, pp. 239-253.

(THREE AUTHORS)

Pallas, Sarah Wood, et al. "Community Health Workers in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: What Do We Know About Scaling Up and Sustainability?" *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 103, no. 7, 2013, pp. e1-e9.

JOURNAL ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE (Part One, p. 32)

NOTE: When citing articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title of the database (**italicized**), **followed by the article's DOI or permalink. If no doi or permalink is available, use a URL.** The URL should **NOT** include angle brackets; <http://> and <https://> are omitted.

JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Kaplan, N., et al. "Polls and Elections: Understanding Persuasion and Activation in Presidential Campaigns: The Random Walk and Mean Reversion Models." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 4, 2012, pp. 843-866, *Wiley Online Library*, doi: 10.1111/j.1741-5705.2012.04021.x

Wattal, Sunil, et al. "Web 2.0 and Politics: The 2008 U.S. Presidential Election and an E-Politics Research Agenda." *MIS Quarterly*, vol. 34, no. 4, 2010, pp. 669-688, *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=54990516&site=ehost-live&scope=site

ARTICLES FROM AN ONLINE JOURNAL (Open Access, etc.)

NOTE: Follow the model for articles retrieved from a database, including the URL or DOI information.

Borlund, Pia. "Interactive Information Retrieval in the Work Context: The Challenge of Evaluation." *Journal of Library and Information Science*, vol. 42, no. 1, Apr. 2016, pp. 70-71, doi: 10.6245/JLIS.2016.421/699

Haas, Astrid. "Borderlands Identities and Borderlands Ideologies in Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*." *American Studies Journal*, vol. 57, 2012, doi: 10.18422/57-02

PERIODICALS (Newspapers): PRINT & ELECTRONIC MODELS

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (Part One, p.30)

When citing English-language newspapers, state the name on the masthead as it appears, omitting any introductory article. If the city of publication is not included, add the city in square brackets, not italicized, after the name. For nationally published newspapers, do not add the publishing city. If an edition is on the masthead, add a comma after the date in your citation; now specify the edition. Follow this information with the page number(s). For sections labeled with letters and paginated separately, include such data and copy this location exactly to your citation. For articles not printed on consecutive pages, use the first page number and a plus sign.

PRINT MODELS

SIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (author present)

Hennigan, Gregg. "In for the Long Haul." *Gazette* [Cedar Rapids, IA], 3 June 2013, pp. A1+.

Palazzolo, Joe. "Apple's E-Book Trial to Begin." *Wall Street Journal*, 3 June 2013, p. B1.

UNSIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (no author)

“Window to Our City: Convention Center, Arena Project Expand Opportunities.” *Gazette*

[Cedar Rapids, IA], 2 June 2013, pp. A9+.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE

NOTE: When citing newspaper articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title of the database (**italicized**), and the article’s **permalink**. The URL should **NOT** include angle brackets; [http://](#) and [https://](#) are omitted.

Spector, Mike, and Mile Colias. “Volkswagen Faces Up to Penalties -- Auto Marker Pleads Guilty in U.S. Court as Emissions Scandal Nears Legal Resolution.” *Wall Street Journal*, 11 Mar. 2017, p. B.1, *ProQuest*,
search.proquest.com/docview/1876378898?accountid=40539.

Maag, Christopher. “In Eastern Iowa, the City That ‘Would Never Flood’ Goes 12 Feet Under.” *New York Times* 13 June 2008: p. 18. *EBSCOhost*,
search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=crh&AN=32593661&site=ehost-live&scope=site

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM A PUBLISHER’S WEBSITE

NOTE: For article’s retrieved from a publisher’s website, include the article’s URL formatted for new guidelines.

Boshart, Rod, and James Q. Lynch. “Democrats Delivered for Iowa’s Middle Class, Cedar Rapids Representative Says.” *The Gazette* [Cedar Rapids, IA], 29 May 2013, thegazette.com/2013/05/29/democrats-delivered-for-iowas-middle-class-cedar-rapids-representative-says

Haberman, Clyde. "A Producer Who Knew When to Have Marilyn Monroe on Hand."

New York Times, 2 June 2013,

www.nytimes.com/2013/06/03/nyregion/producer-knew-when-to-have-marilyn-monroe-on-hand.html?ref=theaterspecial

OTHER COMMON SOURCES (Media): Sample Models

FILM OR VIDEO RECORDING

The entry for a film includes the title, director, distributor and year of release.

FILM (documentary)

Spurlock, Morgan, director. *Super Size Me*. Hart Sharp Video, 2004.

FILM (feature film)

Dayton, Jonathan, and Valerie Faris, directors. *Little Miss Sunshine*. Twentieth Century Fox-Searchlight Pictures, 2006.

Lee, Ang, director. *Life of Pi*. 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2013.

SOUND RECORDING

Schubert, Franz, and Robert Schumann. *Schubert & Schumann Lieder*. Performed by Marian Anderson. RCA Victor, 2000.

INTERVIEWS

MLA recognizes two kinds of interviews – those published or broadcast and those conducted by the researcher. For **published** interviews, begin with the name of the interviewee, and then place title of interview in quotation marks. Include the interviewer's name (if known) and end with applicable bibliographic details and medium. For an interview that **you** conducted, give the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview, and the date. Further details are available --

<https://style.mla.org/2016/06/07/how-do-i-document-an-interview-in-mla-style/>

PUBLISHED INTERVIEW

Obama, Barack. "Obama, The Road Ahead." Interview by Douglas Brinkley. *Rolling*

Stone, 8 Nov. 2012, pp. 32-42.

CONDUCTED FOR RESEARCH

Murphy, Marilyn. Personal interview. 31 May 2016.

WEB-BASED RESOURCES [The Internet]

The World Wide Web offers multimedia information that should be acknowledged and cited like any other resource. Here, we offer MLA citation examples for files on the web. The basic forms for web-based materials mirror their print counterparts (articles and books) but may include the web address and the date you accessed its content (found the source online).

In the current edition of the MLA Handbook (**8th ed., 2016**), the inclusion of a web address (URL) is required; `http://` and `https://` are omitted.

THE ELEMENTS OF A BASIC WEBSITE CITATION (pp. 44-45)

1. Name of the author, compiler, editor, narrator, performer, or translator
2. Title of the work
3. Title of the overall website (*italicized*)
4. Date of publication
5. URL

INDIVIDUAL ELECTRONIC WORK (WEBPAGE) WITHOUT AN AUTHOR

"Grant Wood." *Artnet – The Art World Online*, 2013, www.artnet.com/artists/grant-wood

Thinkmap Visual Thesaurus, 1998-2013, www.visualthesaurus.com

INDIVIDUAL ELECTRONIC WORK (WEBPAGE) WITH AN AUTHOR

Gray, Terry A. *Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet*, 1995-2011,

shakespeare.palomar.edu

Raine, Kristy. *When Tillage Begins: The Stone City Art Colony and School*. 2003-2016,

projects.mtmercy.edu/stonecity

INDIVIDUAL FILE THAT IS PART OF A LARGER WORK (e.g., encyclopedia)

“Star Wars.” *SFE: The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, 2011-2017,

www.sf-encyclopedia.com/entry/star_wars

DOCUMENT ON AN INSTITUTIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, or GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEBSITE

Iowa State University, University Library. *Grant Wood Murals – About the Murals*,

2000-2017, www.lib.iastate.edu/info/6292

State Historical Society of Iowa. *Research Collections*, 2017,

iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections

YouTube (Streaming Media)

Video and audio sources hold with new guidelines; include the clip’s title, author name, and uploader of the content. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author’s name before the title.

“Despicable Me 3 -- In Theaters June 30 -- Official Trailer #2 (HD).” *YouTube*, uploaded

by Illumination, 14 Mar. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=euz-KBBfAAo

“Hamilton Parody -- The Election of 2016.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Rob Schow, 5 Oct.

2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaQyW31OHy0>

Referencing Citations in the Text (Parenthetical Citations)

When references are cited within the narrative, the most common style is the **author-page** system. When quoting, use the author(s) and page(s) numbers. Enclose author and page information within parentheses; upon closing parentheses, place the period.

Grant Wood taught and supervised at the Stone City Colony and Art School (Dennis 22).