Using MLA 8 Format

Creating a reference page using Modern Language Association guidelines

In a research paper, you need to cite the sources you’ve consulted. This is done with both in-text citations and a separate page with Works Cited centered at the top and the full citations listed below in alphabetical order and with a hanging indent. The MLA Handbook (8th edition) provides guidelines for a flexible style designed to cite simple traits common to most works, acknowledge that there’s more than one correct way to document a source, and make the documentation useful to the reader. Below is an outline of the elements to include in MLA-style citations, followed by examples. For more information:

- Check the MLA Handbook book (available at the Reference Desk)
- Check the MLA style website (style.mla.org)
- Consult with a librarian
- Check Purdue’s OWL (owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)
- Contact the Metro State Writing Center www.metrostate.edu/CAE or centerfolk@metrostate.edu

Core elements / Template

The following informational elements about a work may be included in a citation, in the following order. Note the punctuation between elements! The information you include should depend on what information is available, the way you’re using the source, and what is important to the reader. A container is the larger or more encompassing piece of which the source is a part, such as a book, publisher, journal, database, or website. Containers may be nested (e.g., a book in a database.)

- Author.
- Title of Source.
- Title of 1st Container,
  - Other contributors,
  - Version,
  - Number,
  - Publisher,
  - Publication date,
  - Location.
- Title of 2nd Container,
  - Other contributors,
  - Version,
  - Number,
  - Publisher,
  - Publication date,
  - Location.
Examples of citations

Books and parts of books


Articles in journals, magazines, and news sites


Websites, government documents, blogs


@persiankiwi. “We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now - #Iranelection.” Twitter, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072

Audio-visual sources


“Henri 2: Pas de Deux.” YouTube, uploaded by Will Braden, April 6, 2012
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q34z5dCmC4M.


Available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Call Center for Accessibility Resources at 651.793.1540.