

MLA CITATION GUIDE: EIGHTH EDITION

MLA 8 is a major departure from past versions of MLA and other citation styles. It is a formula to construct citations regardless of source format, so you use this formula rather than using examples. The following chart shows you the order of each piece of the citation, the punctuation required, and some of the basic rules.

CITATION CORE ELEMENTS

AUTHOR ⓘ	“Last name, rest of name.” If source has two authors: “last name, rest of name, and second person’s name as normal.” Three or more authors: “Last name, rest of name, et al. ” If citing a book with an editor rather than an author, identify his/her role as “editor.” If no author is given, skip this step.
TITLE OF SOURCE ⓘ	<i>Italics: titles of books, plays, movies, websites, or television series.</i> Quotation marks: “titles of essays, stories, poems, episodes, web pages, online articles, or songs.”
TITLE OF CONTAINER ⓘ	The container is what “holds” the source, such as book, periodical, television series, website, etc. Format in <i>italics</i> .
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS ⓘ	Adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, introduced by, narrated by, performed by, translated by, etc. See 3 rd example on back.
VERSION ⓘ	If the source notes the version, include it in citation: edition (shorten to “ed.”), unabridged version, expanded, updated, director’s cut, etc. See 1 st example on back.
NUMBER ⓘ	If numbered sets in sequence, identify volume and/or issue number. Ex. “vol. 5, no. 2,”
PUBLISHER ⓘ	Organization or publisher responsible for making source available. Omit this when source is a periodical or website title is essentially same as publisher. Shorten “University” to “U” and “Press” to “P.” See last example on back.
PUBLICATION DATE ⓘ	As indicated on source. Use European format: day month year. Month should be abbreviated if more than four letters. If no date is given, leave this blank.
LOCATION ⓘ	Page number(s) preceded by “p.” (if 1 page) or “pp.” (if more than 1 page). URLs and DOIs (digital object identifiers) should be included, but if instructor doesn’t want them, don’t include them.

Resource	Example	In-Text Citation
Book If 3 or more authors: Montgomery, William, et al. If editor: Jameson, Cornelius, editor.	Duchac, Jonathan E., and Carl S. Warren. <i>Corporate Financial Accounting</i> . 10th ed., South-Western Learning Center, 2009.	(Duchac and Warren 245) (Montgomery et al. 47) (Jameson 792)
Book, anonymous author Use the title in the in-text citation. Titles may be shortened. When abbreviating titles, begin with the word by which it is alphabetized in the Works Cited List.	<i>A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: A Diary</i> . Metropolitan, 2005.	(<i>Woman in Berlin</i> 29)
Article or chapter in a collection of essays or an anthology	Allende, Isabel. "Dos palabras." <i>Cuentos de Eva Luna</i> , edited by Kenneth M. Faggart and Ruhard D. Woods, McGraw Hill, 1995, pp. 1-14.	(Allende 7)
Article in a journal (print)	Marinatos, Nanno. "The So-Called Hell and Sinners in the Odyssey and Homeric Cosmology." <i>Numen: International Review for the History of Religions</i> , vol. 56, no. 2/3, 2009, pp. 185-97.	(Marinatos 187)
Article in an online database	Hudson, Angela P. "Dealing with Indians: American Indian Images on U. S. Playing Cards During the Era of Expansion and After." <i>Journal of the West</i> , vol. 48, no. 3, 2009, pp. 53-61. <i>America: History & Life</i> , http://www.americanhistoryandlife.com/article234520 .	(Hudson 54) If no page numbers are available: (Hudson)
Article in a newspaper	Athaveley, Anjali. "What Makes a Mattress Cost \$33,000?" <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> , 17 June 2010, p. D1+.	(Athaveley D1)
Website	Hutcheson, Chris. <i>The Art of Manliness</i> . 2010, http://www.artofmanliness.com .	(Hutcheson) If no author is given, just use website name: (<i>Art of Manliness</i>)
Web Page	DeCay, Lamont. "Residual Trauma of WWII." <i>Historical Testimonials</i> . The History Group, http://www.historicaltestimonials.com/residualtrauma	(DeCay)
Indirect source (What if my author quotes another author?) Whenever you can, take material from the original source, not a secondhand one. Sometimes, however, only an indirect source is available.	Hanson, R. P. C. <i>Saint Patrick: His Origins and Career</i> . Oxford UP, 1968.	"They went out as far as the Ocean itself and enclosed in their own nets the countries of the barbarians and the British Isles" (qtd. in Hanson 29).