



## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, ART AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

### **MLA CITATION STYLE: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE**

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## Introduction

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is a standardized format for citing sources in academic papers and other written works. It is widely used in the humanities, including literature, English, and foreign languages. MLA style provides a consistent and clear way to acknowledge the sources used in a paper, helping to avoid plagiarism and giving readers proper credit for their work.(MLA Style Center 2023)

## Core Elements of MLA Citations

MLA citations consist of several key elements, each providing essential information about the source. These elements include:

*Author:* The author's name is typically listed first, with the last name followed by a comma and the first name. For multiple authors, list them in the order they appear in the source.

*Title of Source:* The title of the source should be enclosed in quotation marks. For books, the title refers to the entire work. For articles or chapters, the title refers to the specific piece being cited.

*Container:* The container refers to the larger publication in which the source initially appeared. For instance, an article published in a journal would list the journal title and issue number as the container.

*Other Contributors:* If the source includes other contributors, such as editors or translators, list their names after the title, separated by commas.

*Version:* If there are multiple versions of the source, specify the version used, such as "2nd ed." or "Revised Edition."

*Number:* If the source has a numerical designation, such as a volume or issue number, include it after the container.

*Publisher:* The publisher's name should be listed in its full form, followed by a comma.

*Publication Date:* The publication date should be provided in the format DD-MM-YYYY. If you can't find the source date, simply leave it out: Some teachers want students to make a source with "no date" as "n.d." If you're unsure, you can check in with your teacher.(EasyBib 2023)

*Location:* For online sources, include the website URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier). For print sources, specify the city and state or country of publication.

## **In-Text Citations**

In addition to a Works Cited list at the end of a paper, MLA style also requires in-text citations to indicate where specific information from a source is used. In-text citations typically include the author's last name and the page number(s) in parentheses. For instance:

"...According to Smith (2023), technology has revolutionized the way we learn..."

## **Formatting MLA Citations**

MLA citations follow a specific formatting style, ensuring consistency and readability.

*Hanging Indent:* Use hanging indent for all lines after the first line of each citation, with the first line flush left and subsequent lines indented by half an inch.

*Double Spacing:* Double-space all lines within a citation and between citations.

*Punctuation:* Use a period at the end of each element, except for the URL or DOI. Use commas to separate elements within the citation.

*Italics:* Italicize titles of books, journals, magazines, and websites.

*Capitalization:* Capitalize the first word of all elements except for articles (a, an, the).

## **Examples of MLA Citations**

Here are examples of MLA citations for different types of sources:

*Book:*

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Penguin Books, 1996.

*Article in a Journal:*

Smith, John. "The Impact of Technology on Education." *Journal of Education*, vol. 123, no. 4, 2023, pp. 34-56.

*Website:*

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "What is the Universe Made Of?" NASA, 2023, [nasa.gov/content/what-is-the-universe-made-of](https://nasa.gov/content/what-is-the-universe-made-of).

## **REFERENCES**

For more detailed information on MLA citation style, consult the following resources:

"MLA Style Center." Modern Language Association, 2023. [style.mla.org](https://style.mla.org).

Purdue Online Writing Lab. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." Purdue University, 2023. [owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html).

"EasyBib MLA Citation Generator." EasyBib, 2023. [www.easybib.com](https://www.easybib.com).