MLA CITATION GUIDE

The 8th version of MLA (Modern Language Association) lists nine pieces of information used to construct ALL citations. They are called **The Core Elements** NOTE. Sometimes not all of them will be used. The punctuation is given after each element. They always appear in the same order.

For example, a book only needs 1. The Author. 2.*Title of the Source Italicized.*

7. Publisher, 8. Publication Date.

1. Author.
2. *Title of Source* *Italicized.*
3. Title of Container, (CD, magazine, newspaper, website, anthology)
4. Other Contributors, (other authors, illustrator, editor)
5. Version, (2nd edition, revised edition)
6. Number, (Multiple Volumes, like encyclopedias, Vol. 5)
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location. (pages for a book, URL, DOI)

For a larger version of the Core Elements, see the last page.

**What does *Title of Container Mean?* (# 3)**

If you read an article in a magazine, the name of the magazine is the container.

The article is contained in the magazine. Song lyrics will be contained in the name of the CD. Not all citations have a container, but some have more than one. If you watch an episode (name the episode) of *Game of Thrones*, the container is Game of Thrones, the additional container will be HBO. A story by Edgar Allen Poe may be in a larger book (container 1) and have been read on Google Books (container 2).

Sample of a citation for an article in a newspaper: **Container ↓**

Williams, Joy. “Rogue Territory.” *York Times Book Review*, 9 Nov. 2017,

**What is a Location?** (# 9) It can be page numbers, a URL or a DOI (Document object identifier)

* Use p. for a single page p. 24
* Use pp. for multiple pages pp. 36-41
* Use URL’s for all online sources (but only if your teacher requires them)
* DOI: example: doi10.1353/pmc.2000.0021. (Found at the end of an article)

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. Remember, they must be listed in the following order:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

* Follow the order and punctuation
* Decide which elements you need and locate the information
* *Italicize, Titles of books, websites, DVD, CD, newspapers, journals, and magazines*
* Use quote marks for ARTICLES in newspapers, journals, magazines and songs

**HOW TO CITE BOOKS**

Citation for a book with one author: **(elements 1,2,7,8)**

* Robinson, Lori. *The History of Canada*. Harper’s, 2017.

Citation for a book with two authors: (Last Name, First Name. First Name Last Name.)

* Robinson, Nicole. Lori Robinson. *The History of Canada.* Harper’s, 2017.

Citation for a book with three authors: First Author then *et al*.

* Robinson, Lori, *et al*. *The History of Canada.* Harper’s. 2018.

**HOW TO CITE A WEB-SITE: Use elements 1,2,3,7,8, 9**

* An individual webpage should be in quotation marks. The name of the whole

website, which MLA treats as a "container," should follow in italics. Remove http:// Note there may not be a publishing date (#8). If the name of the site is the same as the publisher only list in ONCE.

↓

**container**

**Name of web page/article** **↓ Web site location↓**

Lundman, Susan. “How to Make Vegetarian Chili” *EHow,* [www.com/how](http://www.com/how),

10727-make-vegetarian-chili.html

Formatting a Works Cited Page:

* Use Times New Roman 12 and double space and 1” margins on both sides
* Place your last name & page number on the TOP RIGHT
* The title Works Cited is CENTERED

You Must Also…

* List the sources alphabetically by author last name
* If there is no author listed, begin with the title
* Indent the 2nd and subsequent lines of a citation 5 spaces, this is also called a hanging indent (you can set one up). Think of the format as the opposite of a paragraph, when you begin a paragraph, you indent 5 spaces. Citations are the opposite. The first line is next to the margin and all other lines are indented. Notice this on the following page.

Swift 8

Works Cited

An Inconvenient Truth. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performances by Al Gore and Billy

West, Paramount, 2006.

Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." The New York Times, 22 May

2007, www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/science/earth/22ander.html?\_r=0. Accessed 12 May

2016.

Ebert, Roger. Review of An Inconvenient Truth, directed by Davis Guggenheim.

rogerebert.com, 1 June 2006. www.rogerebert.com/reviews/an-inconvenient-truth-

2006. Accessed 15 June 2016.

Leroux, Marcel. Global Warming: Myth or Reality? The Erring Ways of Climatology.

Springer, 2005.

Shulte, Bret. "Putting a Price on Pollution." US News & World Report, vol. 142, no. 17, 14

May 2007, p. 37. EBSCO, Access no: 24984616.

Uzawa, Hirofumi. Economic Theory and Global Warming. Cambridge UP, 2003.

**Important! All the citations on the Works Cited page MUST appear as in-text citations in the body of your paper. Likewise, all in-text citations must have a corresponding source on the Works Cited page. Failure to do this results in a 0 grade. It is a form of plagiarism.**

**The in-text citation for the above sources are: (Uzawa). (Shutle). (Leroux). (Ebert). (Dean). (*An Inconvenient Truth).* Punctuation comes after the closing parenthesis. If a title is in quote marks, the in-text citation will be a swell. (” How to Cite”). For a long title, shorten it for the in-text citation. (“Marbury Madison” is the Most Comprehensive and Critical Supreme Court Case of the 19th Century”). Make it (“Marbury v Madison”)**

**MLA Parenthetical (In-text) Citations**

In-text citations appear in the body of a paper. They are used to give credit to authors from whom you gathered information. They are the authors listed on a Works Cited page. In-text citations consist of the author’s name and/or page numbers in parenthesis (Hacker 24). Notice that there is no comma between the author name and the number, just a number. Also note that the period is placed after the citation.

If your source is electronic, such as a Web-page or a database article, there will not be a page number, so just use the author’s last name (Welch). If a source does not have an author, use the complete title, or an abbreviated form of the title. Note that if the title appears in quotation marks or is italicized on the works cited page, it will also appear that way in the body of the paper (“Easy MLA”). In-text citations appear every 4-5 sentences (*Purdue Owl*).

Failing to use in-text citations or completing a works cited page is considered plagiarism. You need to cite all words and ideas that are not your own. For each author/title listed on your works cited page, must have corresponding in-text citations. Likewise, all parenthetical citations must appear on the works cited page. If not, you have committed plagiarism (Swift).

How to Quote

Short quotations (four typed lines or fewer of prose or three lines of verse) in your text, enclose the quotation within double quotation marks. Provide the author and specific page citation (in the case of verse, provide line numbers) in the text, and include a complete reference on the Works Cited page. Punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons should appear after the parenthetical citation.

See the following examples for short quotes:

* According to some, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.
* According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).
* Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

“For a quote with no page numbers, use the authors last name” (Swift).

Long quotations (Block quote)

* For quotations that are more than four lines place quotations in a free-standing block of text and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented **9 spaces** from the left margin; maintain double-spacing. Your parenthetical citation should come **after** the closing punctuation mark. Use and introductory sentence that ends with a colon.

Example is on the next page….

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room,

and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping

it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing

his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on

quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was

obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity

was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

Note that the punctuation comes before the Parentheses and there are no quote marks.

Swift 1

Ann Swift-student name

Mr. Graham-teacher name

Honors English- course name

21 Dec. 2018- due date

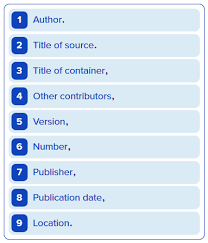
Title of the Paper is Centered

To format the first page of an MLA style paper, do the following. Set the font to Times New Roman and double space. Insert a TOP RIGHT header that consists of your last name and page number. Remember that the Works Cited page will be the last page. On the TOP LEFT enter your name, your teacher’s name, the name of the course, and the due date of the project. Then, CENTER the title.

First Page Format

The Core Elements

All sources are writen in this order, puncuation is given.



Choose the core elements you need, locate the information and write the citation.