

MLA Documentation

The *MLA Handbook* is generally used to document research in English and other humanities courses according to the guidelines established by the Modern Language Association. The *MLA Handbook* is periodically updated to reflect changes in the kinds of media writers are using and/or to improve on the standard format researchers use to cite their sources. The current, 8th edition—detailed in this handout—came out in 2016. The two parts to MLA documentation are **in-text citation** and a **Works Cited page**:

1. **In-text citation, sometimes called parenthetical notation**, shows all sources summarized, paraphrased, or quoted within your written text and includes the author's last name and page number (if a page number is available).

2. The **Works Cited page** lists full bibliographic information for the sources cited (on a separate page), which is numbered consecutively as the last page of your paper). All the sources (and only the sources) you cite using in-text citation will have an entry on this page.

Last Name 1

Student's Full Name

Professor Bucks

English 123

21 April 2006

Biographical Influences in "Theme for English B"

Langston Hughes's "Theme for English B" illuminates tensions that are germane to the poet's race, family life, education, and socio-economic status. Hughes's life experiences surface most notably in the poem's theme and tone. The poem presents a conflict—a black, college-age student writing a composition for a white "instructor"—that mirrors the racial strife abundant in American society during Hughes's time (Hughes 1). Through the writing process, the poem's speaker struggles to formulate identity, as evinced through the question "Me—who?" (Hughes 20). Critics classify Hughes's work into poems of social and "racial protest" and poems of "racial affirmation" (DiYanni 522-523). "Theme for English B," however, does not nestle neatly within either category as it exudes a more complicated

Last Name 5

Works Cited

DiYanni, Robert, editor. "Langston Hughes." *Modern American Poets: Their Voices and Visions*, 2nd ed., McGraw, 1994, pp. 521-523.

Hughes, Langston. "Theme for English B." *The Bedford Introduction to Literature: Reading, Thinking, Writing*, Edited by Michael Meyer, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002, pp. 1107-1108.

Table of Contents

NOTE: While there is a basic format for citing sources, this handout offers models for citing the most commonly cited resources. More than previous editions, the most recent version of the *MLA Handbook* offers a degree of flexibility when citing. The 8th edition relies on a set of “universal guidelines” built around elements found in most sources (author, title, etc.). Works Cited entries are organized around that set of common elements that can be combined to best fit the needs of the writer and the context in which she or he is writing. If you have any questions about citing a specific source, and the answer is not covered in this handout, you should consult *The MLA Handbook* (8th edition). The Academic Success Center has an *MLA Handbook* you may use in the Center. If you are not sure what kind of source the work you need to cite is, or if it is not listed here, please talk to your tutor.

Formatting a Works Cited Page	3
General Template	4
Book with a Single Author	5
Book with Multiple Authors	5
Book with Author and Editor/Translator.....	6
Article in a Reference Work	6
Entire Anthology (Collection of writings from one or more authors)	6
Work in an Anthology	7
Magazine	7
Newspaper.....	7
Journal Article	8
Database (Library Subscription Service)	8
Online Source: Entire Website	9
Online Source: Page on a Website.....	9
Film, DVD, Video Tape, or Slide Show.....	9
Television or Radio Show.....	10
Sound Recording.....	10
Podcast.....	11
Interview.....	11
E-mail.....	12
Speech, Address, Lecture, or Reading.....	12
Advertisement.....	12
Images and Works of Art.....	13
Brochure or Pamphlet.....	13
Online Videos.....	14
Legal Source (Print or Online): Law or Act.....	14
Court Case.....	14

Formatting a Works Cited Page

Your Works Cited Page Should:

- 1) Have Works Cited centered at the top of the page without quotes, italics, bold, or underlining.
- 2) Be double spaced.
- 3) Be organized alphabetically by author's last name, or if there is no author, alphabetized by the title.
- 4) Have a hanging indent for all lines beyond the top line of each citation.

**To format your Works Cited page correctly, follow the MLA's specific guidelines for spacing, font size, margin size, and organization of entries. Refer to the *MLA Handbook* 8th ed. for additional information on proper formatting. Below is a sample Works Cited page.

Organize the entries alphabetically by author's last name or the source's title where there is no author. **Note** the ½ inch indent, called a hanging indent, of the entry's second and subsequent lines.

If you have used more than one source by the same author, list that author's name only once on the Works Cited page. For any subsequent entries by the same author, simply type three hyphens followed by a period and a single space ---. This symbol replaces the author's name. Then add the remaining publication information. For example, Jhumpa Lahiri is the author of both *The Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake*. These titles are still listed alphabetically.

Works Cited Last Name 15

Chang, Jack. "In Latin America, Year of Elections Dawns." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 5 Dec. 2005, city and suburbs ed., p. A3.

Chekov, Anton. "The Lady with the Pet Dog." Translated by Avrahm Yarmolinsky. *The Bedford Introduction to Literature: Reading, Thinking, Writing*, edited by Michael Meyer, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002, pp. 187-97.

Grossman, Lev. "J.K. Rowling: Hogwarts and All." *Time*, 25 July 2005, pp. 60-65.

Lieberman, Laurence. "On the Brink of Secession." *American Poetry Review*, vol. 43, no. 6, Nov/Dec 2014, pp. 29-30. *Literature Online*, http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2003&xri:pqil:res_ver=0.2&res_id=xri:lion&rft_id=xri:lion:ft:criticism:R05103794:0&rft.accountid=9786.

Haviland, Carol Peterson. "Writing Centers and Writing-Across-The-Curriculum: An Important Connection." *Writing Center Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2003, pp. 5-13.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Interpreter of Maladies*. Houghton, 1999.

---. *The Namesake*. Houghton, 2003.

For the Works Cited page, your last name and the final page number of your paper appear ½ inch from the top right margin. In MS Word, type in your name when formatting page numbers on the 'Insert' tab.

Center the title, Works Cited. Do not use italics, underlining, bold, or quotation marks. The title should appear 1 inch from the top margin.

Double space the entire Works Cited page, and use 1 inch margins on both sides as well as the top and bottom of the page. When composing Works Cited entries, use a single space after any periods.

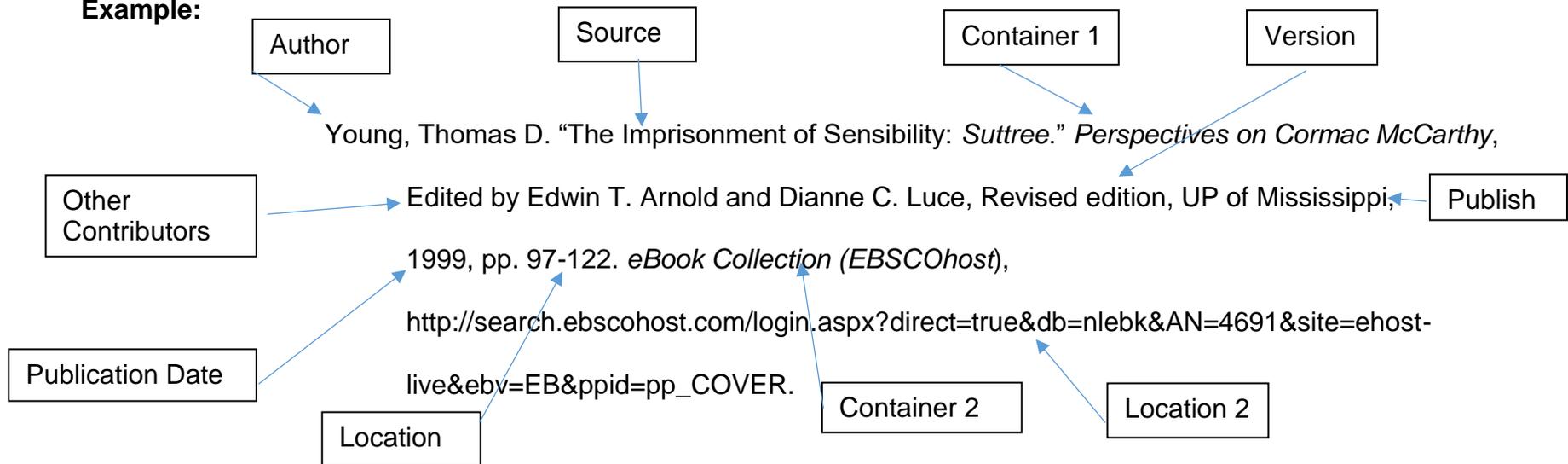
Main Template

According to MLA 8, sources should be thought of as being held within “containers.” Items like books can be thought of as *self-contained*, whereas items like book chapters are *contained* within a larger work. For example, a newspaper like the *New York Times* would be the container for a particular article; likewise, the television show *Breaking Bad* would be the container for a particular episode. The structure of citations in your Works Cited page will follow the general template below. Please note if the title belongs to a larger work, use quotation marks rather than italics. If the title is self-contained, use italics.

Author’s Last name, First name. Title of Source. * *Title of Container*, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher,
 Publication date, Location. *Container 2 Title*, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date,
 Location.

Sometimes sources can actually include multiple containers. For example, a particular TV episode may be contained within the body of the show (“Fly.” *Breaking Bad*.), but the show itself may be contained within a larger entity. In this instance, the writer may have accessed the episode through Netflix. Therefore, after providing information about the first container, the writer would also need to present info about the second container: Netflix, www.netflix.com/309493.

Example:



Note: As you can see in the previous example, based on the type of source you are citing, you may not use all of the elements listed in the template. When creating your Works Cited entries, use your best judgement about the elements that are most relevant and necessary.

Book with a Single Author

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Date.

Example:

James, Henry. *Washington Square*. Penguin Books, 1998.

Note: List the most recent date listed in the book. Even if a book was originally published in 1925, you are citing the copy of the book that you used. Therefore, if your version of the book was published in 2016, the year of publication would be the year that your copy was published.

Book with Multiple Authors

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name, and Second Author's Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Date.

Example with Two Authors:

Sayers, Dorothy L., and Robert Eustace. *The Documents in the Case*. Harper Torch, 1995.

Example with Three Authors:

Green, Ian, et al. *St. Andrews Studies in Reformation History: Humanism and Protestantism in Early Modern English Education*. Ashgate, 2009.

Note: The rules for citing a book with multiple authors apply to other types of works with multiple authors, such as a journal article and more. If there are more than three authors, acknowledge the first author's name and follow it with a comma and et al.

Book with Author and Editor/Translator
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Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Other contributors, Publisher, Date.

Examples:

Johnson, Jean. *The Power of Money*. Edited by Caitlyn Jones, Random House, 2013.

Fryer, Robin. *Misty Musings on Robert Frost*. Translated by David Swanker, Taylor & Francis, 2004.

Article in Reference Work

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Reference Work*, Other Contributors, Version, Number,
 Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Connor, Mary J. "Blogging to Success." *Encyclopedia of Life*, 2012.

Davis, Maria. "Using Articles in English." *Dictionary of American English Grammar*, Continuum, 2013.

Entire Anthology (An anthology is a collection of works from one or more authors.)

Format:

Editor's Last name, First name. *Title of Anthology*, Version, Publisher, Publication date.

Example:

Baym, Nina, et al., editors. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, vol. A, Norton, 2011.

Note: Cite an entire anthology using the editors instead of the author(s) because the editors compile the work.

Work within an Anthology

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of article, chapter, or short story." *Title of Anthology*, Other Contributors, Version, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Thomas, Dylan. "Memories of Christmas." *The Norton Reader: An Anthology of Expository Prose*. Edited by Arthur M. Eastman, 5th ed., Norton, 1980, pp. 1-5.

Magazine

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine*, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Freeman, Richard. "Poses of the Month." *Yoga Journal*, 1 October 2016, p. 21.

Newspaper

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper*, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Lipton, Eric, and Rachel Abrams. "EpiPen Maker's Tactics Could Quell Protests Over Prices." *The New York Times*, 16 Sep. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/16/business/epipen-maker-mylan-preventative-drug-campaign.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>.

Journal Article

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Number, Date, Pages.

Example:

Campano, Gerald. "Honoring Student Stories." *Early Intervention at Every Age*, vol. 65, no. 2, 2007, pp. 48-54.

Database (Library Subscription Service)

Note: Sources found online are commonly published in print form and then made available online in a PDF format. Such sources should be cited as if they were in their original form (i.e., newspaper, journal article, magazine, book, etc.), and the database should be included as a second container at the end of the citation.

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Source." *Title of Journal, Book, Magazine, etc.*, Volume, Number, Date, Location.

Database, URL or DOI.

Example with link:

Ludlum, Marty, et al. "The Study Habits of Finnish College Students: A Two Sample Investigation." *College Student*

Journal, vol. 50, no. 2, 2016, pp. 212-218. *Academic Search Premier*,

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=116190970&site=ehost-live>.

Note: Some databases will generate citations for you. Always check these citations for the proper MLA format, as some may be outdated or incorrect to begin with. Articles in journals are often assigned digital object identifiers (DOI). A DOI will take the reader to the object even if the URL is changed. When possible, cite a DOI (preceded by doi:) instead of a URL.

Example with doi:

Felfe, Christina, et al. "Sports and Child Development." *PLoS One*, vol. 11, no. 5, 2016, pp. 1-23. *Academic Search*

Premier, doi 10.1371/journal.pone.0151729.

Online Source: Entire Website

Format:

Title of Website. Publisher, Publication date, URL. Date of Access.

Example:

BioMed Central. BioMed Central Ltd, 2016, <http://www.biomedcentral.com>. 2 September 2016.

Note: Cite blogs as an entire website.

Online Source: Page on a Website

Format:

Author's Last Name, First name. "Title of Web Page." *Title of Website*, Publisher, Publication date, URL. Date of Access.

Example:

Alan, Henry. "Eight Useful Microsoft Excel Shortcuts Worth Memorizing." *Lifehacker*, Gawker Media, 31 Mar. 2016,

<http://lifehacker.com/eight-useful-microsoft-excel-shortcuts-worth-memorizing-1767484423>. 2 September 2016.

Film, DVD, Video Tape, or Slide Show

Format:

Title of source. Director's name, Other contributors (actors, producers, editors, etc.), Publisher or Distributor, Publication date.

Example:

South Pacific. Directed by Joshua Logan, produced by Buddy Adler, screenplay by Paul Osborn, edited by Robert L.

Simpson, 20th Century Fox, 1958.

Note: If information regarding actors, producers, or writers is relevant to your particular citation, add this information before the distributor.

Television Show or Radio Show

Format:

"Title of episode." *Title of Television or Radio Series, season, episode*, Publisher or Network, Broadcast date.

Example:

"The One Where Dr. Ramoray Dies." *Friends, season 2, episode 18*, NBC, 21 Mar. 1996.

Note: If the TV show is one of a series, such as *Nature* on PBS, list the title of the series after the show or program title.

Sound Recording

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Song." *Title of Album*, Publisher, Date.

Example:

Swift, Taylor. "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." *Red*, Big Machine, 2012.

Note: If you access a song or album from a service like Spotify or Amazon music, cite the service as a container and provide a URL when possible.

Example:

Ocean, Frank. "Be Yourself." *Blonde*, Boys Don't Cry, 2016. *Spotify*, <https://play.spotify.com/album/1PDX0hMmsSdq122EupvNZF>.

Podcast

Format:

“Title of Episode.” *Title of Podcast*, Other contributors (narrator, host, etc.), Date, Location.

Example:

“What We Learn Before We’re Born.” *TED Talks*, narrated by Annie Murphy Paul, 16 Nov. 2009,

https://www.ted.com/talks/annie_murphy_paul_what_we_learn_before_we_re_born?language=en.

Note: This is how you would cite a podcast if it was downloaded from the Internet ONLY. If you are listening to a podcast online, cite it as you would a page on a website.

Interview

Format:

Interviewee’s Last name, First name. “Title of Interview.” *Title of Container*, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Note: If the interview is untitled, include the phrase “Interview by” before the interviewer’s name.

Example:

Street, John. “Interview by Terry Gross.” *Fresh Air*, NPR, WRTI, 13 Oct. 2008.

Note: To cite a personal interview, use the following format.

Format:

Interviewee’s Last Name, First Name. Personal interview. Date when interview was conducted.

Example:

Street, John. Personal Interview. 22 Aug. 2006.

E-Mail

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Message." Received by Recipient's First Name Last Name, Date.

Example:

Eubank, Annette. "Re: CRLA Conference." Received by Molly Bye, 25 July 2006.

Note: "Title of the Message" is usually the subject line.

Speech, Address, Lecture or Reading

Format:

Speaker's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Speech." Title of Conference, Meeting, etc., Title of Sponsoring Organization,
Date, Name of Location, City, State. Type of presentation (Speech, Conference Presentation, etc.).

Example:

Tomlinson, Carol Ann. "Differentiating for Success: Strategies for Supporting Students who Struggle in College." 30th

Annual Conference, NADE, 16 Feb. 2006, Marriott Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Conference Presentation.

Advertisement

Format:

Title of Advertisement (if available). Name of Item or Organization being advertised (if not identified in the title),

Publication venue, Advertisement, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Tasting for Tyler. Bucks County Courier Times, Advertisement, 4 June 2014. D12.

Images and Works of Art

Format:

Photographer's (or Artist's) Last Name, First Name. *Title of Work*, Date of creation, Location (the institution that houses the work, city where it is located). *Website*, URL. Date of Access.

Example:

Baumgartner, Christiane. *Strand*, 2015, Museum of Modern Art, New York. *MoMA*,
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/194751?locale=en>. 2 September 2016.

Example:

Leibovitz, Annie. *Russell Brand as Captain Hook*, 2007, *Vanity Fair*, <http://www.doctordisney.com/annie-leibovitzs-image-gallery-of-disney-dream-portraits-celebrities-as-disney-characters>.

Note: Cite an image as a work of art. If the image is found only online, provide the artist's name, title of the work, and then follow the format for citing a website.

Brochure or Pamphlet

Format:

Title of Brochure or Pamphlet, Publisher, Date.

Example:

Transferring to a Four-Year College. Newtown: Bucks County Community College, 2013.

Note: If the pamphlet has an individual or corporate author, put that information before the title of the brochure.

Online Videos (E.g. YouTube)

Format:

"Title of Video." *Title of Containing Website*, Name of Uploader, Date, URL.

Examples:

"Lecture 1: What is electrical engineering?" *YouTube*, uploaded by John Breslin, 9 Nov. 2009,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5cXV0dNANg>.

Wise, Tim. "Tim Wise: On White Privilege." *YouTube*, uploaded by ChallengingMedia, 19 Feb. 2008,

<https://youtu.be/J3Xe1kX7Wsc>.

Note: If the author's name is the same as the uploader's name, only mention the name once. If the names are different, list the author's name prior to the title.

Legal Source (Print or Online): Law or Act

Format:

Title of Source. Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Example:

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. Pub. L. 110 Stat. 2033. 23 Mar. 2010, pp. 111-148.

Court Case

Format:

Title of Case. *Title of Container*, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, *Container 2 Title*, Publication Date,
Location.

Example:

Brown v. Board of Education. *Collection of Supreme Court Rulings*, 347 US 483, Supreme Court of the US, 1954,
Legal Department, Harvard U Law School.