A

Brief

Guide to

MLA

8th edition

**a SOURCE can be a/an**

* book
* selection from a book
* journal article
* newspaper article
* magazine article
* government document
* pamphlet
* website
* article/document on a website
* short story
* poem
* image or work of art
* film
* episode of a television show
* video, tweet, blog post, email, etc.

**the source can be CONTAINED inside a**

* book that is a collection of essays, poems, short stories, articles
* scholarly journal
* newspaper
* magazine

****

television episode

* website
* private collection or housed collection
* television series
* museum



television series

**the source and container can be contained inside a LARGER CONTAINER such as a**

* database
* website
* television network or media distributor

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**media distributor**

****

****

**newspaper**



**database**

**article**

**General Manuscript Guidelines for MLA**

**Spacing:** Double space all text, including items on the Works Cited page.

**Margins:** Use 1” margins on all four sides

**Page Headers:** See format of header on page one. The writer’s last name and the page number should appear in the upper-right corner of each page.

**Title Page:** Use a title page only when instructed to do so

**Numbers:**

Write out all numbers that can be written in two words or fewer (twenty-five, one thousand, six million, 645). When several numbers are used in one paragraph or passage, switch to using all numerals.

**Block Quotes:**

Use a block quote when the passage being quoted takes up more than four lines of regular text. Indent one inch from the left margin and double space. Place the citation **after** the period at the end of the quote.

**Punctuating Titles:** Titles of short works (articles, poems, etc.) are enclosed in quotation marks; titles of long works (magazines, newspapers, books) are italicized. Capitalize all important words of all titles, even if they are not capitalized in the original source.

**Quoting Poetry:** Separate lines of poetry with two forward slashes (//)

Student Name Name 1

Instructor Name

Course Title and Number

Date in MLA format

Title Centered and With Important Words Capitalized

Citing information used in research papers can result in a condition known as Post Traumatic Citation Disorder (PTCD). Students suffering from PTCD are often seen wandering the hallways while mumbling to themselves and are sometimes spotted in libraries, their hair disheveled and their backpacks overflowing with papers.

The Centers for Disease Control recently released the findings of a 2008 study that indicates that students suffering from this condition may

Name 5

Works Cited

Barker, Jonathan. *Late Night Talk Show Hosts*.

Harper Collins, 2005.

Denton, Marianne and Samuel Frasier. *Night Legacies*. MacMillian, 2004.

“Johnny Carson to Conan O’Brien: A

Generation of Late Night Hosts Who Know

How to Make Us Laugh.” *Time* 24 Feb. 2006:

12-16.

Lefkowitz, Frances. *David Letterman*. Pop

Culture Legends. Chelsea House, 1997.

**MLA—Using Citations to Document Information within an Essay**

Source with **one author/editor**—(**No comma!**) (Smith 45)

Source with **two authors**/editors— (Smith and Jones 45)

Source with **three or more** authors/— (Smith et al. 45)

**No author**/editor listed—use first important word(s) of title and **punctuate** word(s)-- (“Stress”)

“Stress Headaches: Citing Sources in College Composition.”

*Hoopjumping Quarterly* vol. 12 no. 3, 2006, pp. 23-35.

# Same information from two separate sources— (Smith 45; Jones 135)

# Same information from two locations within the same source-- (Smith 9, 25)

# Two or More Sources by the Same Author—give author’s name, then first important word o the title

# punctuated, then page number)

# (Borroff, *Language* 85)

(Borroff, *Sir Gawain* 85)

##### Source from an Online Database or Web Site—author or first important word only—NO PAGE #S (“Symbiosis”) or (Tolson)

##### There are no page numbers used for any sources accessed via the web unless the source is in PDF

##### or comparable format that provides page numbers.

**When name of author of an internet source is used in the sentence, no citation is necessary:**

Nancy Tolson explains that early libraries served a “critical civic function.”

##### When the source is identified within the sentence, use only the page number in the citation:

##### According to Jane Braniac, professor of aerodynamics at MIT, correctly constructed paper

##### airplanes can travel quite far (85).

In his book, *Fireworks: A Pyrotechnic’s Playground*, John Blast writes, “My first experience with explosives was shooting off bottle rockets in my grandparents’ back yard; now I implode buildings for a living” (85).

##### Using a mid-sentence citation to clarify which ideas come from a source and which are yours:

##### Analyzing literature is hard (Acornley 53), but being controlled by outside forces because you cannot think for yourself is harder.

##### Information quoted by the author of your source:

President Bush referred to the insurgents as “rebels” (qtd. in Smith 85).

**When source is a time-based medium**—give numbers of hours, minutes and seconds separated by colons

Walter White’s hubris reaches its height when he says, “You clearly don’t know who you’re talking to, so let me clue you in. I am not in danger, Skyler. I am the danger. A guy opens his door and gets shot, and you think that of me? No! I am the one who knocks!” (00: 46:13-19).

**DIRECT QUOTATIONS:** Use these only when the author has written something particularly quotable or when the meaning will be lost if you put the information into your own words.

To avoid the dropped quote (i.e. a quote that is just appears without warning in a piece of writing), introduce a quotation by giving the name (and position or title) of the person, study, journal, etc. being quoted:

**EXAMPLE OF QUOTATION:**

Introduction

Francis Lefkowitz, author of the Pop Culture Legends Series book *David Letterman* writes, “The scholarship has an interesting stipulation that could best be described as Lettermanesque: only students with a C grade average can qualify” (42-43).

“42-43” because the quote wraps from page 42 to page 43. Do not put the author’s name in the citation because the name is mentioned in the sentence.

End the quote BEFORE the citation

Sentence punctuation comes AFTER the citation.

**Variation:**

“The scholarship has an interesting stipulation that could best be described as Lettermanesque,” writes Francis Lefkowitz, “only students with a C grade average can qualify” (42-43).

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**PARAPHRASING**

Paraphrasing means putting accurate information from a source into your own words and giving the author of the source credit by citing the information.

**Original Text**:

Plainly put, David did not like school. He was uncomfortable with the social aspects, felt awkward around girls, and was bored with his classes and assignments. Although he loved sports, he could not get excited about the extracurricular activities either. During his first year he played freshman basketball and was a reserve on the freshman track team, but then he quit. He played in the band briefly, and for a little while he joined a club that staged cometh-theatre productions. But he did not excel in any of these activities and did not stay with them long. The one endeavor that he stuck with for most of his high school career was his position as hall monitor.

**Hint:** Do not try to paraphrase only one sentence. Paraphrase a chunk of information.

**Incorrect/Plagiarized:**

David Letterman had a hard time in high school with the social aspects. He was bored with his classes and assignments. He played freshman basketball and played in the band for a while, but he did not excel in any of these (Lefkowitz 24).

*Problem: Phrases are lifted from the original text. The paraphrase must be completely in your own words.*

**Correct Paraphrase:**

Letterman was shy and awkward when in high school. His grades were unimpressive (average at best), he enjoyed sports but did not excel at them, and was overall a non-outstanding teenager (Lefkowitz 24).

**MLA Works Cited Entries—8th Edition**

For all sources, follow the order of works cited core elements listed below. Punctuate each item as it is punctuated in the list.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Author.** | One author: Last, First.  Two authors: Last, First and First Last.  Use et al. to indicate more than two authors. | Rowling, J. K.  Rowling, J. K. and J. R. R. Tolkien.  Rowling, J. K., et al. |
|  | **Title of Source.** | Italicize if long work (book, movie, entire website, album)  Use quotation marks if short work (article, web page, poem, short story, essay, song). | *The Lord of the Rings.*  *The Blueprint.*  “The Raven.”  “Inside the Teen Brain.”  *Mona Lisa.* |
|  | **Title of Container,**  *(the bigger work or place that contains the source)* | Usually italicized  Title of magazine or newspaper  Title of journal  Title of website  Title of museum  Title of book that is a collection (anthology) of poems, short stories, essays | (Note: A book is self-contained.)  *The New York Times,*  *Journal of Clinical Biology,*  *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,*  *The Louvre,*  *The Things They Carried,*  *Netflix,* |
|  | **Other contributors,** | Editors, illustrators, translators, etc. | Translated by John Smith,  Edited by Jane Doe,  Annotated by Tyler Perry, |
|  | **Version,** | Edition or version of a work | 2nd edition,  25th edition,  Authorized by King James, |
|  | **Number,** | For multivolume works and for journals with volume and issue numbers  Also for episodes of television shows | vol. 2, no. 6,  vol. 7,  season 4, episode 13, |
|  | **Publisher,** | The company or entity that produces or distributes the source; the organization or person who sponsors a website | Penguin,  Simon & Schuster,  Oxford UP,  American Academy of Pediatrics, |
|  | **Publication date,** | The date of the publication of the version of the source you are citing  Date of completion of artwork | 2014,  14 Dec. 2013,  Jan. 1999,  *Mona Lisa,* 1506, |
|  | **Location.** | The span of pages of the essay in a book or article in a journal, newspaper, or magazine  Location of an online work can include the URL (without https://) at instructor’s discretion. Include date of access.  DOI (digital object identifier)  Location where artwork is physically housed | p. 76.  p. A12.  pp. 595-600.  www.cla.purdue.edu/english/. Accessed 4 May 201.5  doi: 10.1002/tox.20155.    Museum of Modern Art, New York. |

**If the source is in a container that is in another container (such as an article in a journal from a database), work through all nine core elements; then return to element 3 and work through the rest again.**

**BOOKS**

**BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Berlage, Gai Ingham. *Women in Baseball: The Forgotten History*. Greenwood, 1994.

In-text citation: (Berlage 25)

**BOOK BY TWO AUTHORS**

Last Name, First Name and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Cook, Phillip J., and Jens Ludwig. *Gun Violence: The Real Costs*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2000.

In-text citation: (Cook and Ludwig 256)

**BOOK BY MORE THAN TWO AUTHORS**

Last Name, First Name, et al. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Peel, Robin, et al. *Quantum Leaps in the Wrong Direction: Where Real Science Ends . . . and Pseudoscience Begins*. National Academy, 2001.

In-text citation: (Peel et al. 125)

**BOOK WITH AUTHOR and EDITOR or TRANSLATER**

Last Name of author, First Name. *Title of Book*. Edited/Translated by First and Last Name of Editor/Translator. Publisher, year.

Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage: An Episode of the American Civil War*. Edited by Fredson Bowers. UP of Virginia, 1975.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles. Viking, 1996.

# BOOK WITH A CORPORATE AUTHOR

Name of corporation with articles (A, An The) omitted from the beginning [do not abbreviate name].

*Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *A Return to the Moon.* Random House, 2009.

If the corporation is both the author and the publisher, omit the corp. name and begin with the title.

*A Return to the Moon.* National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2009.

# TWO OR MORE BOOKS BY SAME AUTHOR

# 

Last Name of Author, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

---. Last Name of Editor, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Borroff, Marie. *Language and the Past: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. U of Chicago P, 1979.

---. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Norton, 1967.

In-text citation: (Borroff, *Language* 85) and (Borroff, *Sir Gawain* 85)

**BOOK IN A SERIES**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Title of Series. Publisher, year.

Lefkowitz, Frances. *David Letterman*. Pop Culture Legends. Chelsea, 1997.

**REPUBLISHED BOOK**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Year of Original Publication. Publisher, year.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. 1947. Vintage, 1995.

**Information from Reference Books**

**ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Publication*. edition by year.

**signed article:** Haven, Joshua, “Mandarin.” *The Encyclopedia Americana*. 1994 ed.

**unsigned article:** “Ginsburg, Ruth Bader.” *Who’s Who in America*. 52nd ed. 1998.

In-text citations: (Haven 956) (“Ginsburg” 678)

**See section on online publications for citing online encyclopedias.**

**Selection from a Book**

# WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Essay.” *Title of Book*. Edited by Editor’s Name. Title of Series (if

appropriate). Publisher, year. Pages of essay.

Allende, Isabel. “Toad’s Mouth.” *A Hammock Beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin*

*America*. Edited by Thomas Colchie. Plume, 1992, pp. 83-88.

In-text citation: (Allende 85)

**AN INTRODUCTION, PREFACE, FORWARD OR AFTERWARD**

Last Name, First Name. Introduction/Forward/Preface/Afterward. *Title of Book*. By. Author’s

Name. Title of Series (if appropriate). Publisher, year. Pages of introduction/preface/etc.

Marsalis. Wynton. Forward. *Beyond Category: The Life and Genius of Duke Ellington.* By John Edward

Hasse. Simon, 1993, pp. i-iix.

In-text citation: (Marsalis iii)

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**

Last Name, First Name (if individual author). Name of the government. Governmental agency

that generated the document. Title of committee (if appropriate). *Title of Publication*. Publisher (usually the Government Printing Office if a US doc), year. URL if a web document (at instructor’s discretion). Date of access if a web document.

**PRINT**

New York State. Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century. *The Adirondack Park in*

*the Twenty-First Century.* State of New York, 1990.

United States. Dept. of Labor. *Child Care: A Workforce Issue.”* Government Printing Office, 1988.

**ONLINE**

United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Defining Childhood Obesity.” 16 Jun. 2015. Accessed 30 Aug. 2016.

United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Defining Childhood Obesity.” 16 Jun. 2015. http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/defining.html. Accessed 30 Aug. 2016.

**See the MLA Handbook for citing congressional records.**

**electronic documents**

Name of author/compiler/editor. Title of Work [italicized or in quotation marks, depending on size of

article). *Title of Overall Web Site*. Publisher/Sponsor of the site, date of publication or update URL (at instructor’s access. Date of access.

“Verb Tenses.” *The OWL at Purdue.* Purdue U Online Writing Lab, 2001. Accessed 15 May 2008.

“de Kooning, Willem.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online.* Encyclopaedia Britanica, 2008. Accessed

2 July 2007.

Eaves, Morris, et al., editors. *The William Blake Archive.* Library of Congress, 2016. http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/. Accessed May 2016.

Quade, Alex. “Elite Team Rescues Troops behind Enemy Lines.” *CNN.com.* 19 May 2007. http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/03/15/search.rescue/index.html?iref=newssearch. Accessed 15 May 2008.

**See MLA Handbook or The Owl at Purdue website for citing blog posts, tweets, message board entries, YouTube videos, etc.**

**PAMPHLETS, BROCHURES and PRESS RELEASES (treat as you would a book)**

**PRINT**

Name of organization. *Title of Pamphlet/Brochure/Press Release*. Publisher, date.

*Preparing for the New Writing Component on the SAT.* The College Board, 2007.

**ONLINE**

*Title of Pamphlet/Brochure/Press Release*. City: Publisher, date. *Title of Website.* URL. Date of access.

## College Board Brief Highlights Patterns in Student Debt: Typical College Graduate’s

## Debt Increases, but Slowly. The College Board, 11 Aug. 2009. http://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/patterns-student-debt-web-final-508-2.pdf. Accessed 9 Sept. 2009.

*.*

**MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN PRINT**

**Magazine Articles**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine*, day month year, page number(s).

Amelar, Sarah. “Restoration on 42nd Street.” *Architecture,* Mar. 1998, pp. 146-50.

Josef, Samuel. “Surviving MLA.” *Student Life* Apr. 2004, pp. 9+.

In-text citations: (Amelar 147) (Samuel 15)

**MAGAZINE ARTICLE FROM AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine,* date: page number(s). *Name of*

*Database*. DOI (or URL if DOI not provided). Date of access.

“Cooling Trend in Antarctica.” *Futurist,* May-June 2002: 15. *Academic Search Premier*.

doi: 10.1002/tox.20155. Accessed 22 May 2002.

In-text citation: (“Cooling”)

**ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE MAGAZINE**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine*, publication date. URL. Date of

access.

Bernstein, Mark. “10 Tips on Writing the Living Web.” *A List Apart: For People Who Make*

*Websites,* 16 Aug. 2002. alistapart.com/article/writeliving, Accessed 4 May 2009.

In-text citation: (Bernstein)

**Newspaper Articles**

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN PRINT**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Newspaper* [City, State] (if indistinguishable from the title)

date, edition (if any): section (if numbered): page number(s).

Jeromack, Paul. “This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor.” *New York Times,*

13 July 2002, late ed., p. B7+.

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Newspaper* [City, State] (if indistinguishable from the title),

date, edition (if any): section (if numbered): page number(s). *Name of Database*. DOI (or URL if DOI not provided). Date of access.

“High Schools, Wake Up!” *USA Today,* 23 Jan. 2006, late ed.: A9+. *Academic Search Premier*.

doi: 10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 10 Apr. 2006.

In-text citation: (“High”)

**ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE NEWSPAPER**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Newspaper* [City, State] (if indistinguishable from the title),

Date of publication. URL. Date of access.

Tyre, Peg. “Standardized Tests in College?” *Newsweek*, 16 Nov. 2007. http://www.newsweek.com/standardized-tests-college-96211. Accessed 9 May 2008.

In-text citations: (Tyre)

**Journal Articles**

**JOURNAL ARTICLE IN PRINT**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Publication,* volume [if provided], issue, year, page

number(s).

Barthelme, Frederick. “Architecture.” *Kansas Quarterly,* vol.13, no. 3, 1981, pp. 77-80.

In-text citation: (Barthelme 79)

**JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Publication,* volume, issue, year, page number(s).

*Name of Database*. DOI (or URL if DOI not provided). Date of access.

Tolson, Nancy. “Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians, and

Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children’s Literature.” *African*

*American Review,* vol. 32, no. 6, 1996, 9-16. *JSTOR*. doi: 10.1002/tox.20155. Accessed 1 Oct. 2002.

In-text citation: (Tolson) or if in PDF form (Tolson 10)

**ARTICLE IN ONLINE JOURNAL (published only on the web)**

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Publication,* volume [if provided], issue,

year, URL. Date of access.

Oulette, Marc. “Theories, Memories, Bodies, and Artists.” *Reconstruction*, vol. 7, no. 4, 2007, http://reconstruction.eserver.org/Issues/074/intro.shtml. Accessed 5 June 2008.

**FILM RECORDINGS**

*Title of* film. Directed/Created/Produced by Name of director/creator/producer. Perf. Name(s) of principal

performer(s). Distributor, year of release.

*It’s a Wonderful Life.* Directed by Frank Capra. Performances by James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

**interviews**

Name of Person Interviewed. Personal interview. Date of interview.

Thompson, Sarah. Personal Interview. 15 Aug. 2015.

**PRINT INTERVIEW**

Name of Person Interviewed. Interview with Name of Interviewer. *Title of Interview* if independent title. Rest of citation for magazine, journal, book, or other print container.

Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review,* vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-50.

Amis, Kingsley. “Mimic and Moralist.” *Interviews with Britain’s Angry Young Men,* By Dale Salwak, Borgo P, 1984

**BROADCAST INTERVIEW**

Name of Person Interviewed. “Title of Interview if part of television program/film series.” *Title of Program/Series,* network, air date.

Reagan, Ronald. Interview with Barbara Walters. *Barbara Walters Special: Ron and Nancy Reagan.* ABC. 15 March 1986

Trump, Donald. Interview with Barbara Walters. *Donald Trump 20/10 Barbara Walters Full Interview—11/20/15. YouTube*, uploaded by jesicafarrow01664499, 20 Nov. 2015. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0pn\_o6Kdrk.

**EMAIL INTERVIEW**

Kunka, Andrew. “Re: Modernist Literature.” Received by John Watts, 15 Nov. 2000.

**WORKS OF VISUAL ART**

**IMAGE, including HOUSED ARTWORK**

Artist’s Name. *Title of Artwork*. Date of composition. Institution that houses the work or name of private collection (Collection of . . .). Name of the city where the institution/collection is located.

Seurat, Georges. *Man Leaning on a Fence,* 1880. Collection of Andre Bromberg, n.p.

Evans, Walker. *Penny Picture Display,* 1936. Museum of Mod. Art, New York.

**ARTWORK VIEWED VIA THE WEB**

Artist’s Name. *Title of Artwork*. Date of composition. *Title of database or web site.* Date of access.

Lange, Dorothea. *The Migrant Mother,* 1936. *Dorothea Lange: Photographer of the People.* http://www.dorothea-lange.org/text.home.htm. Accessed 9 May 2007.

