

# MLA STYLE

The 2016 *MLA Handbook*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, is very different from the earlier versions regarding the citations. Instead of fixed rules on how to cite a specific type of source, MLA's current system is based on nine core elements that are applied to all sources. (Pages 20-53 and 102-116 provide more detailed guidance for most citation questions as well as illustrations of where to find the necessary information. Additional answers are available at the MLA Style Center – <https://style.mla.org> - and other academic web sites. )

## Major differences between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> editions:

1. No city of publication unless the book was published prior to 1900.
2. No medium of the publication (ex. print, web, transcript, address, etc.), except when needed for clarity.
3. Add p. or pp. for page number(s). (NOTE: Only for the works cited page, not in-text.)
4. Add vol. and no. for periodicals.
5. The month or season is now included for scholarly journals.
6. Formerly abbreviated terms such as editor, edited by, translator and review are no longer abbreviated.
7. Use the abbreviations rev. for revised and ed. for edition.
8. The use of et al. is now for three or more authors.
9. URLs (without the http:// or https://) are now given for web sources and databases.
10. The use of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged.
11. The use of permalinks or stable URLs is preferred if the DOI is not available.
12. Citing the date the source was consulted is now optional.
13. Placeholders for unknown information are omitted. (If relevant facts such as date are missing, there is no notation such as n.d. for “no date”.)
14. Publisher names are given in full except for words like “Company”. Academic presses still use the abbreviations U, P, and UP (for University, Press, and University Press).
15. A forward slash can be used between the names of co-publishers.
16. When an organization is the author and publisher of a work, the organization is generally only listed once as the publisher and no author is given.
17. Reference works are treated the same as all other sources.
18. The original publication information for a reprinted source is now considered optional as the emphasis is on the form in which the source is consulted.

# CORE ELEMENTS

In order:

1. **Author.** (Last name, first name initial if available.)
2. **Title of source.** (Books and web sites are in italics and articles, stories, poems, song on an album, etc., are in quotation marks)
3. **Title of container,** (Containers hold the source. For example, a container may be a book holding a story or chapter; a magazine, journal or newspaper holding an article; a web site holding an article, posting, or section; a television series holding an episode; a database holding a source; etc.)
4. **Other contributors,** (Such as editors, translators, introducers, adapters, directors, etc.)
5. **Version,** (The edition or version of the work, such as revised, updated, second, unabridged, etc.)
6. **Number,** (If the source is part of a multi-volume set, the volume and issue numbers on a journal, or the seasons and episodes of a television series)
7. **Publisher,** (Use for books, film and television series and web sites, but not for magazines, journals or newspapers, works published by the author or editor, web sites when the title is the same as the publisher, databases, etc.)
8. **Publication date,**
9. **Location.** (Includes page number(s) for print sources, the URL or web address for online works, the DOIs - digital object identifiers - for online works if available instead of a URL or web address, the physical place for a physical object experienced firsthand, such as in a museum, etc.)

# OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

You may also add other elements such as:

1. **Date of Original Publication,** (Used if the source is reprinted and the original date is important. This date is placed after the source's title before the current publication information.)
2. **City of Publication,** (Used with books published before 1900 and may be used instead of a publisher's name.)
3. **Facts about the Source.** (Includes number of volumes in a multivolume publication, series name, transcript, lecture, address, original publication information, number and session of Congress and document type and number, and date of access for online sources.)

**NOTE:**

MLA recommends including URLs (or DOIs if available) in the works cited list, as well as the date of access, especially if there is no date on the source. Do not include the http:// or https:// on the URL. If the web site has a stable URL (or permalink), use that instead.

If your instructor does not want you to include the URLs in your works cited list, follow his or her preferences. When in doubt, include the information.

The inclusion of the date of access is also subject to the instructor's preference. When in doubt, include the information.

## **EXAMPLES**

### **BOOKS**

The core elements for book citations are:

**In print:**

Author last name, author first name. *Title of book*. Other contributors [editor, translator, etc.], Version [edition], Number, Publisher, publication date.

**In a database or on a web site:**

Author last name, author first name. *Title of book*. Other contributors [editor, translator, etc.], Version [edition], Number, Publisher, Publication date. *Container title* [database name, title of website], Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location [DOI, Permalink, stable URL or URL]. Date of Access [day month year - if necessary].

**One author:**

**Print:** Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Bantam Books, 1981.

**Database:** Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Icon Group International, 2005, *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*. web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzE0OTIxNI9fQU41?sid=29df6e51-b2d1-4dca-8b7e-3f2062bf180e@sessionmgr4006&vid=3&format=EB&rid=2. Accessed 20 Aug. 2016.

**Web:** Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Harper and Brothers, 1917, *HathiTrust Digital Library*, hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.32106002064027. Accessed 20 Aug. 2016.

**Multiple works by the same author:**

List the books alphabetically by title, ignoring the A, An, or The if it is the first word. After providing all of the information for the first entry, use three hyphens and a period in place of the author's name for all following entries.

Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Oxford UP, 1999. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*, translated by William Butcher, [web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/](http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmx1YmtfXzI4NzQ5N19fQU41?sid=2b4e8bb0-e308-4ad6-aa87-7804b311c227@sessionmgr107&vid=0&format=EB&rid=1)

[bmx1YmtfXzI4NzQ5N19fQU41?sid=2b4e8bb0-e308-4ad6-aa87-](http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmx1YmtfXzI4NzQ5N19fQU41?sid=2b4e8bb0-e308-4ad6-aa87-7804b311c227@sessionmgr107&vid=0&format=EB&rid=1)

[7804b311c227@sessionmgr107&vid=0&format=EB&rid=1](http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmx1YmtfXzI4NzQ5N19fQU41?sid=2b4e8bb0-e308-4ad6-aa87-7804b311c227@sessionmgr107&vid=0&format=EB&rid=1). Accessed 20 Aug. 2016.

---. *The Mysterious Island*. Philadelphia, 1876. *Project Gutenberg*, translated by Stephen W. White, [www.gutenberg.org/files/8993/8993-h/8993-h.htm](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/8993/8993-h/8993-h.htm). Accessed 20 Aug. 2016.

---. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Translated by Anthony Bonner, Bantam Books, 1981.

**Two authors:**

Lloyd, John, and John Mitchinson. *The Book of Animal Ignorance*. Harmony Books, 2007.

**Three or more authors:**

Only list the first author and add et al. to indicate "and others":

Scott, Gregory M. et al. *21 Debated-- Issues in World Politics*. Prentice Hall, 2000.

**Editor(s):**

Milosevic, Irena, and Randi E. McCabe, editors. *Phobias: The Psychology of Irrational Fear*. Greenwood, 2015.

Norris, Mary, editor. *Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*. W. W. Norton, 2015.

**Work in a collection, anthology, or chapter of a book:**

Deaver, Jeffery. "The Plot." *First Thrills: High-Octane Stories from the Hottest Thriller Authors*, edited by Lee Child, Tom Doherty Associates, 2010, pp. 119-39.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. "My Lost Youth." *The Norton Anthology of Literature*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Vol. 1, edited by Nina Baym, W.W. Norton, 1998, pp. 1457-59.

Whitman, Walt. "Recorders Ages Hence." *Selected Poems*. Dover, 1991, p. 20.

**Editions:**

Connolly, Peter. *A Student's Guide to the History and Philosophy of Yoga*. Rev. ed. Equinox Publishing, 2014.  
 Sibley, David. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

**Reprint:**

If the source was previously published, adding information about the prior publication is now considered optional because the emphasis is on the form in which you consulted the source. Please check with your instructor as to their preference.

Koehler, Lyle. "The Salem Village Cataclysm: Origins and Impact of a Witch Hunt, 1689-92." *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*. Edited by Jelena O. Krstovic, vol. 38, Gale, 1998, pp. 125-37. Originally published in *A Search for Power: The "Weaker Sex" in Seventeenth-Century New England*. U of Illinois P, pp. 383-417.

**Translation, Introduction, Forward, Afterward:**

*The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Introduction by N. K. Sandars, rev. ed., Penguin Books, 1972.  
 McGee, David M. *Bristol Dragway*. Forward by Kenny Bernstein, Arcadia, 2007.  
 Stoyan, Ronald. *Atlas of Great Comets*. Translated by Storm Dunlap, Cambridge UP, 2015.

**Government Publications:**

**Print:** United States, Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services.  
*Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants*. Government printing Office, 2007.

**Web:** United States, Department of Education. "Tips for Helping Students Recovering From Traumatic Events." Sept. 2005. [www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/recovering/part.html](http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/recovering/part.html). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

**Database:** United States, Health and Human Services Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CDC Awards \$60 Million to Help States and Territories Battle Zika." *CDC Press Release*, 21 July 2016. *SIRS Government Reporter*, [sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000384364&type=ART](http://sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000384364&type=ART). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

## **Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Advertisements:**

The core elements for periodical citations are:

### **In print:**

Author last name, author first name. "Title of article." *Title of Magazine, Journal, Newspaper*, volume number, issue number, publication date, page number(s).

### **In a database or on a web site:**

Author last name, author first name. "Title of article." *Title of Magazine, Journal, Newspaper*, volume number, issue number, publication date, page number(s). *Container title* [database name, title of website], Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location [DOI, Permalink, stable URL or URL]. Date of Access [day month year - if necessary].

### **Print:**

Journal: Correa, Teresa. "Acquiring a New Technology at Home: A Parent-Child Study About Youths' Influence on Digital Media Adoption in a Family." *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, vol. 60, no. 1, Mar. 2016, pp. 123-39.

Magazine: Scoles, Sarah. "Death from Above: Do Big Extinctions Come Like Clockwork – From Space?" *Discover*, vol. 37, no. 7, Sept. 2016, pp. 26-33.

Newspaper: Ebert, Joel. "Trump Lacks Financial Support from Tennessee GOP Lawmakers." *The Tennessean* [Nashville], 25 Aug. 2016, p. 3A.

Advertisement: "Mission Clean Protein Bar." *Muscle & Fitness*, vol. 77, no. 8, Sept. 2016, p. 61.

### **Database:**

Journal: Eberth, David A. "Origins of Dinosaur Bonebeds in the Cretaceous of Alberta, Canada." *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, vol. 52, no. 8, 2015, pp. 655-81. *OmniFile Full Text Mega*, doi: 10.1139/cjes-2014-0200. Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Neeley, Josiah. "Subsidizing Disaster: As Seas Rise, Why is Government Promoting Coastal Development?" *The American Conservative*, vol. 15, no. 5, 2016, pp. 9-10. *Academic OneFile*, www.northeaststate.edu:3443/login?url=http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA461444708&v=2.1&u=tel\_a\_nestcc&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&asid=948f6b5db146215d8545dd76d338710f. Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Magazine: Marinone, Timothy. "Is Today's Engineering Education Properly Training Young Engineers?" *Sound & Vibration*, Dec. 2015, pp. 5-7. *Applied Science & Technology Full Text*, web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=8781858d-29bd-4df5-addd-d21ddd9cad5%40sessionmgr4006&vid=8&hid=4107. Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

“Taking the Pulse of Digital Literacy.” *Education Week*, 13 Mar. 2014, pp. 301. *SIRS Issues Researcher*, [sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000361302&type=ART](http://sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000361302&type=ART). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Newspaper/News Source: Efe, Tobore, and Victoria Olisa. “Excessive Social Media Usage Affecting Reading Culture, Experts Caution.” *Africa News Service*, 25 Aug. 2016. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, [www.northeaststate.edu:3443/login?url=http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/NewsDetailsPage/NewsDetailsWindow?disableHighlighting=true&displayGroupName=News&currPage=&scanID=&query=&prodID=OVIC&search\\_within-results=&p=OVIC&mode=view&catID=&limiter=&display=query=&displayGroups=&contentModules=&action=e&sortBy=&documentID=GALE%7CA461535844&windowstate=normal&activityType=&failOverType=&commentary=true&source=Bookmark&u=tel\\_a\\_nestcc&jsid=6b1c7dc4d4936d3909ddfae665a2ae5f](http://www.northeaststate.edu:3443/login?url=http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/NewsDetailsPage/NewsDetailsWindow?disableHighlighting=true&displayGroupName=News&currPage=&scanID=&query=&prodID=OVIC&search_within-results=&p=OVIC&mode=view&catID=&limiter=&display=query=&displayGroups=&contentModules=&action=e&sortBy=&documentID=GALE%7CA461535844&windowstate=normal&activityType=&failOverType=&commentary=true&source=Bookmark&u=tel_a_nestcc&jsid=6b1c7dc4d4936d3909ddfae665a2ae5f). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Rosenberg, Steven A. “Paperless Education.” *Boston Globe*, 5 June 2016, p. B1. *SIRS Issue Researcher*, [sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000384236&type=ART](http://sks.sirs.com/webapp/article?artno=0000384236&type=ART). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Advertisement: “Zamberlan.” *Backpacker*, vol. 44, no. 7, Sept. 2016, p. 32. Flipster, [backpacker.eoncontent.ebscohost.com/1292955#&pageSet=17](http://backpacker.eoncontent.ebscohost.com/1292955#&pageSet=17). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

**Web:**

Journal: McComb, Karen, et al. “Unusually Extensive Networks of Vocal Recognition in African Elephants.” *Animal Behavior*, vol. 59, no. 6, June 2000, 1103-9, doi: [dx.doi.org/10.1006/anbe.2000.1406](http://dx.doi.org/10.1006/anbe.2000.1406). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Magazine: Ziv, Stav. “Robot Locusts Harness the Power of Biology and Mechanics.” *Newsweek*, 22 Aug. 2016. [newsweek.com/2016/09/02/mini-robot-locusts-492433.htm](http://newsweek.com/2016/09/02/mini-robot-locusts-492433.htm). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Newspaper/News Source: Fisher, James, and Jason N. Minto. “This 1960s-Era ‘Futuro’ Home has Sci-Fi Flavor.” *The News Journal* [Wilmington, DE], 26 Aug. 2016. *USA Today*, [easybtn-stage.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/08/26/era-futuro-home-sci-fi-flavor/89451178](http://usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/08/26/era-futuro-home-sci-fi-flavor/89451178). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

Advertisement: “Benjamin Moore – Horse.” Jan. 2014. *Ads of the World*, [adsoftheworld.com/media/print/benjamin\\_moore\\_horse\\_page\\_1](http://adsoftheworld.com/media/print/benjamin_moore_horse_page_1). Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

**Other Sources:**

E-mail: Roberts, Mathew J. "Re: Class Assignment." Received by Jennifer M. Carlyle, 18 July 2016.

Tweet: @northeaststate. "Applications being accepted now for @TheJKCF Undergrad Transfer Scholarship open to #communitycollege students." *Twitter*, 26 Aug. 2016, 11:05 a.m., [twitter.com/northeaststate/status/769234259710214144](https://twitter.com/northeaststate/status/769234259710214144). Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.

Interviews: Always list by the interviewee's name. A personal interview is conducted by writer of paper. Published interviews – if part of a larger work, use quotation marks for the title. If the interview is independent, italicize the title. If there is no title of the interview, add Interview by.

Affa, Sefi. Interview by Elena Rodriguez Murphy. *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 43, no. 3, Fall 2012, pp. 106-14.

Drescar, Rebecca. Personal interview. 23 Apr. 2016.

Zuckerberg, Mark. Interview by Brian William. *Rock Center with Brian William*, 26 Mar. 2014. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO3wCqjytmg>. Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.

Videogames: *NBA 2K17*, Legend Gold ed. 2K Games, 16 Sept. 2016.

Music: Adele. "When We Were Young." 25, XL Recordings, 2015.

Troy, Doris. "Just One Look." *Real Oldies*, *iHeartRadio*, <http://www.iheart.com/artist/doris-troy-12144/songs/just-one-look-1046699/>. Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.

Films or Movies: *Big Stone Gap*. Directed by Adriana Trigiani, performances by Ashley Judd, Patrick Wilson, and Whoopi Goldberg, Universal Studios Home Entertainment, 2016.

*The Secret Life of Pets*. Directed by Yarrow Cheney and Chris Renaud, Universal Pictures, 2016.

*The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes*. Directed by Leslie S. Hiscott, performances by Arthur Wontner and Ian Fleming, Real Art Productions, 1935. *Internet Archives*, [https://archive.org/details/The\\_Triumph\\_of\\_Sherlock\\_Holmes](https://archive.org/details/The_Triumph_of_Sherlock_Holmes). Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.

Television: "94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation*, season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010.

*Netflix*, [www.netflix.com/watch/70152031?trackId=200256157&tctx=0%2C20%2C0974d361-27cd-44de-9c2a-2d9d868b9f64-12120962](http://www.netflix.com/watch/70152031?trackId=200256157&tctx=0%2C20%2C0974d361-27cd-44de-9c2a-2d9d868b9f64-12120962).

"So It Goes." *NCIS*, season 12, episode 3, CBS, 7 Oct. 2014.

Performances: The Charlie Daniels Band. Fun Fest, 22 July 2016, Kingsport.

*Mama Mia!* Directed by Richard Rose, 28 May 2016, Barter Theatre, Abingdon.