

MLA STYLE

Citing sources requires a brief **in-text citation** and full details of each source on a final **Works Cited** page. For additional help consult the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.), ask a librarian, visit the MiraCosta Writing Center, and/or check out: library.miracosta.edu/mla

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Place in-text citations at the end of sentences in your paper; include author & pages (for print sources).

In-Text Citation When Paraphrasing

Example: According to one researcher, students learn best when they take notes (Gomez 176-80).

Example: In her research, Gomez found that students learn best when they take notes (176-80).

In-Text Citation When Quoting

Example: According to Gomez, "college students learn best when they are note taking" (179).

Example: One scholar stated that "college students learn best when they are note taking" (Gomez 179).

In-Text Citation for Sources with No Author

Give entire title - as listed in your Works Cited - in the body of your paper or abbreviate title in parentheses:

Example: According to *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* house elves are treated poorly (179).

Example: House elves have historically been treated poorly (*Harry* 179).

In-Text Citation for Sources with 3+ authors

List **et al.** after first author: (Cox et al. 156).

VIDEO ON A WEBSITE (E.G., YOUTUBE)

2. **Title of source.** "Where Young Syrian Refugees Sleep."

CONTAINER 1

3. **Title of container,** *YouTube*,

4. **Other contributors,** uploaded by BuzzFeedBlue,

8. **Publication date,** 20 May 2014,

9. **Location.** www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_kP2jMzn24.

"Where Young Syrian Refugees Sleep." *YouTube*, uploaded by BuzzFeedBlue, 20 May 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_kP2jMzn24.

ESSAY IN TEXTBOOK (PRINT BOOK)

1. **Author(s).** Pellerin, Robert M.

2. **Title of source.** "Disability and Inequality."

CONTAINER 1

3. **Title of container,** *Our Social World*,

4. **Other contributors,** edited by Jeanne H.

Ballantine, et al.,

5. **Version,** 5th ed.,

7. **Publisher,** Sage,

8. **Publication date,** 2016,

9. **Location.** pp. 359-60.

Pellerin, Robert M. "Disability and Inequality." *Our Social World*, edited by Jeanne H. Ballantine, et al., 5th ed., Sage, 2016, pp. 359-60.

EBOOK IN A DATABASE

1. **Author(s).** Marshall, C. W., and George Kovacs.

2. **Title of source.** *Classics and Comics*.

CONTAINER 1

7. **Publisher,** Oxford UP,

8. **Publication date,** 2011.

CONTAINER 2

3. **Title of container,** *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*,

9. **Location.** search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=352893&site=ehost-live.

Marshall, C. W., and George Kovacs. *Classics and Comics*. Oxford UP, 2011. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=352893&site=ehost-live.

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WORKS CITED PAGE

A Works Cited is the final page of a research paper and should be alphabetized and double-spaced. All entries longer than one line should have a .5 inch hanging indent:

Works Cited

Marshall, C. W., and George Kovacs. *Classics and Comics*. Oxford UP, 2011. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=352893&site=ehost-live.

Stone, Jim. "Harry Potter and the Spectre of Imprecision." *Analysis*, vol. 70, no. 4, 2010, pp. 638-44. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/40930271.

"Where Young Syrian Refugees Sleep." *YouTube*, uploaded by BuzzFeedBlue, 20 May 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_kP2jMzn24.

There are **9 core elements** to look for to cite a source in the Works Cited list. Give each in the order listed below. Elements are followed by a period or comma as shown; final elements always end with a period. Only cite available info; often some elements will be left out.

1. Author(s).

2. Title of source.

CONTAINER 1

3. Title of container,

4. Other contributors,

5. Version,

6. Number,

7. Publisher,

8. Publication date,

9. Location.

CONTAINER 2

3. Title of container,

4. Other contributors,

5. Version,

6. Number,

7. Publisher,

8. Publication date,

9. Location.

CORE ELEMENT DESCRIPTIONS

1. Author(s).

Give author's last name, followed by a comma and rest of name as given in the work. For **2 authors**, list 1st author in reverse order but 2nd author in normal order. For **3 or more authors**, list 1st author (last name first) followed by a comma and **et al.**:

- Lopez, Maria Gabriela.
- Nguyen, Peter T., and Erika M. Jones.
- Cox, Laverne, et al.

If the main person/people responsible for a work is an **editor** or **editors**, list this after their name(s); authors can also be corporations, governments, etc.

- Lee, Charise, editor.
- Trask, Eric, and Stacy Mill Park, editors.
- Center for Disease Control.

2. Title of source.

For title, all major words should be capitalized. If your source is a **book**, **eBook**, an **anthology/collection of essays**, a **website**, a **film**, etc. it is italicized:

- *The Wretched of the Earth.*
- *Jurassic Park.*

If your source is part of a larger work such as an **individual poem in a collection/anthology**, a **book chapter**, an **article in a journal, newspaper, magazine**, or **on a website**, place it in quotation marks:

- "Apple's Value Soars to \$600 Billion."
- "The Raven."
- "Women's Rights in 21st Century China."

3. Title of container,

CONTAINER 1

If your source is part of a larger work like an individual poem, short story or chapter in a **book or anthology**, an article in a **journal, newspaper, magazine, or on a website**, then the next piece of info listed is the name of the book, journal, newspaper, magazine, or website (MLA calls this a **container**) in italics:

- *The Journal of Modern African Studies,*
- *The Huffington Post,*
- *The Collected Works of Edgar Allen Poe,*

CONTAINER 2

Some containers (e.g., journal, magazine, eBook) are housed in an even larger container such as an **article database** (e.g., *JSTOR*) or **eBook database** (e.g., *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*). For sources in databases give information for **2 containers**; CONTAINER 1 describes the article or eBook while CONTAINER 2 lists database and URL:

Stone, Jim. "Harry Potter and the Spectre of Imprecision." *Analysis*, vol. 70, no. 4, 2010, pp. 638-644. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/40930271.

4. Other contributors,

In addition to the author of a work, other people may be credited as contributors such as editors, directors, translators, performers (actors):

- edited by,
- directed by,

5. Version,

- 7th ed.,
- Updated ed.,

6. Number,

- 2nd ed., vol. 5,
- vol. 128, no. 1,

7. Publisher,

May be omitted for articles in periodicals and for websites whose title is the same as its publisher.

- Oxford UP,
- Penguin Press,

8. Publication date,

If known, list date of publication/creation. Abbreviate all months except May, June, July as follows: Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

- 28 Dec. 2014,
- 1999,
- Nov. 1981,
- 2000-2016,

9. Location.

For print sources in a container like a book chapter or journal article give **page** (p.) or **page range** (pp.). For web sources, MLA recommends a **URL** but instructors may ask they not be included; **digital object identifier** (doi) or **permalink** should be used in place of a URL if available. Location can also be a physical place:

- pp. 193-200.
- www.jstor.org/stable/40930271.
- doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.
- Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside.