

What's New in MLA Citation Style, 9th edition?

Overall, there are no major changes in the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition, published in 2021. The 9th edition mainly expands upon the rules from the 8th edition. It includes writing tips and a new chapter on inclusive language, many more examples of Works Cited entries, and expanded guidance on in-text citations.

There are some changes for Works Cited entries, as listed below:

Location Element for Online Works

***A DOI/doi (digital object identifier) is preferred.** DOIs are often provided in academic articles from electronic sources. If provided, use the DOI. If DOI is not preceded with <http://> or <https://>, put **<https://>** in front of DOI.

Example: <https://doi.org/10.1353/mod.2016.0011>.

***If DOI is not provided, look for a permalink or stable URL.** Copy it directly from the source, not from your browser's window.

Example of permalink/stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26923507>.

***If neither DOI nor permalink is provided, use a regular URL** and copy & paste it directly from your browser's window, or, if using a library database, retrieve citation from database's Cite tool. You can omit **<http://>** and **<https://>** to save space, except for DOIs.

Note: You can shorten a URL if it is more than three full lines or is longer than the rest of the entry. When shortening, always retain at least the host. Avoid using shortening services (such as bit.ly or TinyURL).

Example of URL: [https://style.mla.org/plagiarism and academic dishonesty/](https://style.mla.org/plagiarism-and-academic-dishonesty/)

Host

Dictionary Entries

Include the abbreviated part of speech (italicized) and number (in parentheses) for dictionary entries.

Example: "Content, *N.* (4)." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., Merriam-Webster, 2003, p. 269.

Video Titles on Sharing Sites (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)

Video titles on sharing sites should be in quotes and not italics.

Example: "William Shatner and Crew Detail Trip to Space." *YouTube*, uploaded by ABC News, 13 Oct. 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ectvLqZU5wE>.

Annotated Bibliographies

Beneath the source, annotations should be formatted as a block, tabbed half an inch beyond the hanging indent. The entire document is double spaced.

Publication Date – Season

Lowercase seasons of the year when they are part of a publication date in the Works Cited list.

Citation Guide: MLA 9th Edition

MCC-Blue River Library

This Guide includes:

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- p. 2: Overview of MLA Style
- p. 3-4: Citation Examples for the Works Cited page
- pp. 5-6: In-Text Citations & Examples
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- pp. 8: Sample MLA-style Paper and Works Cited page

For more
information:

style.mla.org

MLA Handbook available
at MCC Libraries

BASIC RULE:

Follow the
requirements
of your instructor.

This MLA guide is based on the *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed., published in 2021 by the Modern Language Association. In academic writing, when you borrow the words, facts, or ideas of others, you must cite, or give credit to, those sources. Doing so allows your readers to locate your sources to learn more, and it shows that you are a responsible researcher.

Cite Your Sources in Two Places:

1. Within your essay, where you put brief in-text citations to refer readers to the longer citations on the Works Cited page.
2. On the Works Cited page, the last page of your essay, where you list complete citations for the sources you used.

Core Elements for an MLA Works Cited Citation:

Aim to locate all 9 core elements. **If an element is not provided, skip it.** Use punctuation mark shown after each element.

1. Author.	Last name, first name, middle initial. For multiple authors or no author , see p. 3 of this guide.
2. Title of Source.	Italicize titles of standalone sources (books, websites, magazines, journals, newspapers, databases). Put title in quotation marks if source is part of a larger work (chapters, short stories, a web page, articles).
3. Title of Container,	When a source is “nested” in a larger whole, the larger whole is the “container.” A source may have two containers: an article found in a journal (container 1) that is housed in a database (container 2). In this case , add elements 1-9 to your citation for the smaller 1 st container, followed by elements 3-9 for the larger 2 nd container. If a source has even more containers, continue to add elements 3-9 to your citation to account for each additional container. A print book does not have a container—it is self-contained.
4. Contributor,	Precede contributor’s name with “by.” Examples: edited by, translated by, illustrated by, uploaded by
5. Version,	A specific version or edition of a source, e.g., unabridged or abridged version 6th ed. expanded ed.
6. Number,	If source is part of a numbered sequence. Examples: vol. 1, no. 4 vols. 1-2 season 2, episode 1
7. Publisher,	Organization responsible for creating the source. For university publishers, abbreviate University as U and Press as P. Examples: U of Missouri P Harvard UP. Omit business abbreviations such as Corp., Co., Inc., and Ltd. in publishers’ names. Omit publisher for journals, magazines and newspapers, and for websites with titles that are essentially the same as the publisher’s name.
8. Publication Date,	Day-Month-Year style. Spell out May, June, & July; abbreviate September to Sept.; abbreviate all other months to three letters. Example: 12 Feb. 2020. If a publication is issued by season, the season is not capitalized. Example: summer 2021. Date of Access (date you accessed the source) is optional (unless your instructor says otherwise), but include it as last element of citation if no publication date is given.
9. Location. (Page numbers for print sources; DOI, permalink/stable URL, or URL for online sources.)	For print sources: Example: p.24 / for page ranges: pp. 45-56 / pp.131-48 For Online sources: If available, use a DOI (digital object identifier), making sure it is preceded by http:// or https:// . If it is not, precede it with: https://doi.org/ . Ex.: https://doi.org/10.1353/mod.2026.0011 . If no DOI, use a permalink (stable URL), if available. Ex.: https://www.jstor.org/stable/26923507 . If no DOI or permalink is provided, use regular URL, copying it from browser window, or, if using a database, use Cite tool. For URLs, you can omit http:// and https:// to save space, but that’s not allowed for DOIs.

MLA 9th edition – Works Cited Examples

Citations should be double-spaced (examples shown below are not). All lines of a citation after the first line are indented one tab (one-half inch) from the left margin. For formatting tips, see pp. 7-8.

How to Cite Authors' names:

For 1 Author: Morrison, Toni. (Last Name, First Name.)

For 2 Authors: Kramer, Mark, and Wendy Call. (Last Name, First Name, and First Name, Last Name.)

For 3 or More Authors: Charon, Rita, et al. (Last Name, First Name of first author, et al.)

For No Author: Begin citation with title of source.

Elements for an MLA Citation

If given, these elements should be included in your Works Cited citations. Use the punctuation mark shown after each one. **If an element is not provided, skip it.** For details on elements, see p. 2.

1. Author.
2. Title of Source.
3. Title of Container.
4. Contributor.
5. Version.
6. Number.
7. Publisher.
8. Publication Date.
9. Location.

Type of Source	Example of MLA 9 th edition Works Cited entry
Entire Book	<p>Format: Author(s). <i>Title of Book</i>. Edition, Publisher, Year. <i>Database Name (if electronic)</i>, URL.</p> <p>Example (Print book): Bennett, Britt. <i>The Vanishing Half</i>. Riverhead Books, 2020.</p> <p>Example (E-book): Hulick, Kathryn. <i>Cybersecurity Careers</i>. ReferencePoint Press, 2019, EBSCOhost, search-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.mcckc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1849580&site=ehost-live.</p>
Part of a Book (essay, chapter, poem, story, encyclopedia entry, dictionary entry, etc.)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Part." <i>Title of Book</i>, edited by Editor, edition, vol. #, Publisher, Year, page number(s). <i>Database Name (if electronic)</i>, URL.</p> <p>Example (Essay in an e-book): Lorenz, Janet. "Willa Cather." <i>Critical Survey of American Literature</i>, edited by Steven Kellman, 3rd ed., vol. 1, Salem Press, 2016, pp. 475-82. EBSCOhost, https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.mcckc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1442654&site=ehost-live.</p> <p>Example (Poem in a print book): Troupe, Quincy. "Poem for My Father." <i>Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin</i>, edited and compiled by Philip Cushway and Michael Warr, W. W. Norton, 2016, pp. 194-95.</p> <p>Example (Print Dictionary): "Ambit, N. (1)." <i>Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary</i>, 9th ed., Merriam-Webster, 1998, p. 77.</p> <p>*Note: For dictionary words, include abbreviated part of speech (in italics) and number (in parentheses).</p>
Online Video (YouTube; TED)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Video." <i>Website Title</i>, Website Publisher (if different than title), uploaded by Name of User, Date of Upload, URL.</p> <p>Example: "What's New in the MLA 9th Edition Handbook." <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Xamplio, 5 Oct. 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfIVWUwRRlI.</p> <p>Example: Belle, Robert A. "Our Emotions and our Money." <i>TED</i>, Jan. 2022, https://www.ted.com/talks/robert_a_belle_our_emotions_and_our_money.</p>

More examples on p. 4

MLA 9th edition – Works Cited Examples (continued)

Type of Source	Example of MLA 9 th edition Works Cited entry
Journal Article from a Library Database (2 Authors; has DOI/doi – digital object identifier)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol. #, no. #, Date of Publication, page number(s). <i>Database Name (if electronic)</i>, DOI, stable URL or URL.</p> <p>Example: Virtanen, Marianna, and Marko Elovainio. "Justice at the Workplace: A Review." <i>Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics</i>, vol. 27, no. 2, Apr. 2018, pp. 306-15. <i>ProQuest</i>, https://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0963180117000639.</p> <p>*Note: For location element, a DOI/doi (if provided) is preferred. If DOI is not preceded with http:// or https://, precede it with https://. If a DOI is not given, use a permalink (stable URL) or a regular URL.</p>
Journal Article from a Library Database (3 or more authors & permalink/stable URL)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol. #, no. #, Date of Publication, page number(s). <i>Database Name (if electronic)</i>, DOI, stable URL or URL.</p> <p>Example: Mariti, Chiara, et al. "Owners as a Secure Base for Their Dogs." <i>Behaviour</i>, vol. 150, no. 11, 2013, pp. 1275–94. <i>JSTOR</i>, http://www.jstor.org/stable/23525230.</p> <p>*Note: For location element, a DOI/doi (if provided) is preferred. If DOI is not preceded with http:// or https://, precede it with https://. If a DOI is not given, use a permalink (stable URL) or a regular URL.</p>
Magazine or Newspaper Article (print, database or website)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Magazine/Newspaper</i>, vol. #, no. #, Date of Publication, page number(s). <i>Database Name (if from a database)</i>, URL.</p> <p>Example: Metcalfe, Elizabeth. "Restored and Revived." <i>House and Garden</i>, Feb. 2022, pp. 86-93. (<i>print</i>)</p> <p>Example: Shuster, Simon. "Man In the Middle." <i>TIME Magazine</i>, vol. 194, no. 26, Dec. 2019, pp. 42–47. <i>EBSCOhost</i>, https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.mccck.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=140105384&site=ehost-live.</p> <p>Example: Spoerre, Anna. "Kansas City Zoo: Gorilla Tests Positive for Covid as Zoo Officials Await Vaccines." <i>The Kansas City Star</i>, 6 Oct. 2021, https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article254797357.html. (<i>website</i>)</p>
Article or Page on a Government Website (Government agency as author & publisher)	<p>Format: Author(s). "Title of Article or Page." <i>Title of Overall Website</i>, Website Publisher (if different than website title), Date of Publication, URL.</p> <p>Example: United States, Environmental Protection Agency. "Unconventional Oil and Natural Gas Development." <i>United States Environmental Protection Agency</i>, 12 Oct. 2021, https://www.epa.gov/uog.</p> <p>*Note: If website's name is same as name of publisher, publisher name may be omitted.</p>
Photograph from a Website	<p>Format: Artist(s). <i>Image Title</i>. Date of creation. <i>Title of Overall Website</i>, Website Publisher (if different than website title), URL.</p> <p>Example: Silver, Walter. <i>Factory</i>. 1986. <i>New York Public Library Digital Collections</i>, https://digitalcollections.nypl.org.</p> <p>*Note: Italicize the titles of formal art works.</p> <p>*Note: If image is untitled, give a concise, informative description of it (no italics or quotation marks).</p>

In-Text Citations: Information & Examples

In-text citations provide a means to give credit within the text of your paper when you are borrowing others' words, facts, or ideas. **Use in-text citations when:** **quoting** -- enclosing someone's exact words within quotation marks

paraphrasing -- putting the ideas of others into your own words and sentences

or **summarizing** -- using your own words to give an overview of another's main points

MLA In-Text Citation Basics:

- MLA in-text citations generally contain the author's last name and the source's page number. These brief citations identify your sources in the text of your paper at points where you are borrowing material, usually at the end of a sentence. In-text citations refer readers to the Works Cited list, which gives complete information about a source.

Examples: If you **mention the author's name in a sentence**, you need only include the **page number** in parentheses: Cain concludes that "Love is essential; gregariousness is optional" (264).

An exact quote from Cain, within quotation marks

If you don't mention the author's name in a sentence, you put the **author's last name** and the

page number in parentheses: A record of our times evolves through everyday news stories (Cioffi 11).

A paraphrase of Cioffi's words

- **If no author is provided**, use a shortened version of the title of the source within parentheses **or**, alternatively, the complete title of the source within the text of your paper. The first word of the *shortened title* must be the same as the first main word (not *A*, *An*, or *The*) of the source's *complete* title on the Works Cited page. For shortened titles, use the first word or words of the complete title, ignoring the words *A*, *An*, *The*.

If page numbers are not provided, which is common for internet sources, do not include them. PDF articles may have page numbers, so use them if available.

Sample In-Text Citations for the Works Cited citation example below:

Linford, Jenny. *The Seven Culinary Wonders of the World: A History of Honey, Salt, Chile, Pork, Rice, Cacao, and Tomato*. Illustrated by Alice Pattullo, Smithsonian Books, 2018.

Signal phrases "signal" that borrowed information is coming.

Sample In-text Citations	Paraphrase, Author in sentence	Linford points out that these seven food mainstays were once considered elite fare, unattainable for most, and that knowing their stories can offer us a whole new esteem for their specialness (9).
	Paraphrase, Author in parentheses	Until the mid-19 th century, chocolate was enjoyed only in liquid form (Linford 174).
	Quote, Author in sentence	Of research on honey's use in medicine, Linford writes, "Recent findings show that raw honey can kill more than 250 clinical strains of bacteria, including the so-called superbug MRSA" (62).
	Quote, Author in sentence	As Jenny Linford notes, "[O]nly 6 percent of the salt produced in the world today is used for food purposes" (79).

Note: The closing period goes **after** the parentheses.

In-Text Citation Examples: *(continued)*

Paraphrase, No author	Fathers participating in a weekly program of reading to their children said that the activity improved their parenting skills (“Engaging Fathers” 27). <div style="text-align: right;">Title of source (shortened) ↑ Page number</div>
Quote divided by your own words	“He was obeyed,” writes Joseph Conrad of the company manager in <i>Heart of Darkness</i> , “yet he inspired neither love nor fear, nor even respect” (87). ← Page number
Paraphrase, two authors	Others note that doctors have not yet adequately explained the effects climate change will have on human health (Lemery and Auerbach 4-5). ← Two Authors
Quote divided by your own words (indirect source)	With her art, Carrie Mae Weems addresses social change and what she refers to as “the <i>ism</i> brothers” – racism, sexism and classism (qtd. in Watts 55-56). ← Example

In-text Citation for an Indirect Source

A source that paraphrases or quotes another source is called an indirect source. **Example:** an article by Linda S. Watts includes a quote by Carrie Mae Weems, and you would like to use the Weems quote in your paper. When possible, the best practice is to find and cite the original source of the quote (the source containing the quote by Weems). But if the original source can't be located, cite the source that you are looking at (the article by Watts).

To cite Weems within the text of your paper:

1. Name the original source of the information—Weems—in the text of your paper immediately before you quote or paraphrase the source.
2. Cite the indirect source, Watts, in the parenthetical citation following Weems' words.

Example: (qtd. in Watts 55-56).

3. Be sure to cite Watts in the Works Cited list at the end of your paper (but not Weems).

Block Quotes (for Long Quotations)

If a quote runs more than four lines of your text (or more than three lines for verse/poetry): Block quote off from the rest of the text by indenting the entire quote a half inch (one tab) from the left margin. The introductory phrase you place before your long quotation usually ends with a colon. Do not enclose the block quote in quotation marks. See below:

Block Quote Example:

Nick describes his impression of Gatsby at their first meeting:

Phrase
introducing
quote

He smiled understandingly—much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced—or seemed to face—the whole external world for an instant, then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. (Fitzgerald 48)

Author and page number

For block quotes, the closing period goes *before* the parentheses.

Formatting Your MLA-style Paper

See sample MLA-style paper on p. 8

Do these settings first:

Margins: 1 inch all sides -- Microsoft Word and Google Docs both have default 1-inch margins.

Line Spacing: Double-space the entire paper, including the Works Cited page (the last page).

Font & size: Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Then do settings below:

For Microsoft Word

Last Name & Page Number (at top right of pages)

1. On page 1 of your paper, click **Insert** at top left, then **Page Number** at right.
2. Click **Top of Page** option, then **Plain number 3** box.
3. Click once at immediate left of the number 1.
4. Type your last name and a space, **Example:** Jones 1
5. Highlight last name & page number; click **Home** tab and change font to Times New Roman, size 12.
6. To close header, double-click below dashed line.

Hanging Indents for the Works Cited page

1. Begin the Works Cited list on the first line of a new, separate page of your paper, after your essay.
2. Click **Align Center** icon.
3. Type the words Works Cited, then hit **enter** once.
4. Click **Align Left** icon.
5. Set hanging indents at 0.5" by clicking tiny arrow in lower right corner of **Paragraph** section at top of screen > under "Special" click **Hanging** > **OK**.
6. Type citations in alphabetical order by first main word of citation. For each citation, all lines after the first line should now be indented one-half inch. *If you typed your citations before you set up hanging indents, highlight them all together and do step 5 above, plus put a check in box that says "Don't add space between paragraphs...."*

For Google Docs

Last Name & Page Number (at top right of pages)

1. On page 1 of your paper, click **Insert** > **Page Numbers**.
2. Click on the first picture box, upper left corner (it shows page numbers 1 & 2 at top right of pages).
3. Click once at immediate left of the number 1. Type your last name and a space, **Example:** Jones 1
4. To close header, double click anywhere in white space below header.

Hanging Indents for the Works Cited page

1. Begin the Works Cited list on the first line of a new, separate page of your paper, after your essay.
2. Click **Center Align** icon.
3. Type the words Works Cited, then hit **enter** once.
4. Click **Align Left** icon.
5. Set hanging indents at 0.5" by doing this:
Click **Format** > **Align & Indent** > **Indentation Options**. Under "Special Indent" select **Hanging** > **Apply**.
6. Type citations in alphabetical order by first main word of citation. For each citation, all lines after the first line should now be indented one-half inch. *If you typed your citations before you set up hanging indents, highlight them all together and do step 5 above.*

SAMPLE MLA-STYLE PAPER

Jones 1

Anna Jones
Professor Williams
English 101
2 November 2021

In Word: Click *Insert* > *Page Number* > *Top of Page* > *Plain #3* > Click once at left of 1. Type your last name and add a space. Click below header line to close header.

Title of Your Essay

We Should Read Online Reviews with a Critical Eye

Most of us in America – 93 percent – use online reviews when making a new purchase, and we generally find them helpful (Turner and Rainie). Yet we have reasons to be wary, with reports of third-party “marketers” paying people for positive reviews (Botsman 146-47) and a recent announcement by Tripadvisor that it removed nearly one million fake reviews in 2020 (13). Although online reviews are often beneficial, the risks of deception abound. As tech columnist John Thornhill notes, “[T]echnology is transforming trust-based transactions, but it also has created new problems of its own.” There are ...

In-text citation with author and page numbers

Entire paper:

Times New Roman 12 pt. font

Double-spaced

1-inch margins all sides

-----Pretend this is the Works Cited page (a separate page after your essay)-----

Jones 4

Alphabetize list by first main word

Works Cited

One-half inch hanging indent (see p. 7 for help)

Botsman, Rachel. *Who Can You Trust?: How Technology Brought Us Together and Why It Might Drive Us Apart*. Public Affairs / Hachette Book Group, 2017.

Thornhill, John. “Online Reviews are Testing Tech’s Trust Revolution.” *Financial Times*, 14 Sept. 2020, ProQuest, <http://ezproxy.mcckc.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/trade-journals/online-reviews-are-testing-tech-s-trust/docview/2467902139/se-2?accountid=2182>.

“Tripadvisor Review Transparency Report 2021.” *Tripadvisor*, Oct. 2021, p.13, <http://www.tripadvisor.com/transparencyreport2021>.

If no author is given, begin citation with title of source. Use shortened title for in-text citation.

Turner, Erica, and Lee Rainie. “Most Americans Rely on Their Own Research to Make Big Decisions, and That Often Means Online Searches.” *Pew Research Center*, 5 Mar. 2020, <https://pewrsr.ch/2VO7bQn>.

Need Help?

MCC-Blue River Library - 816-604-6642
<https://mcckc.edu/library/blue-river>

Ask-a-Librarian:

<https://mcckc.edu/library>
Text: 816-920-0275

MLA Handbook, 9th ed. -- in MCC Libraries

MLA Style Center -- style.mla.org

MLA Guide -- owl.english.purdue.edu/owl