Library Guide to MLA Style (8th Edition)

Two Parts to EVERY Citation in MLA style

References list entry
- References are listed on a separate page with the title Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Arrange entries in alphabetical order by author’s last names, or by title for sources without authors.
- Author’s full names are typed out. First author is last name, first name while the second authors is first name followed by the last name.
- Capitalize first word and all other principal words of the titles/subtitles of cited works listed.
- Include the URL (web address) for online sources unless your instructor specifies otherwise.

In-text citation (a.k.a. “parenthetical citation”)
- Is a quick note inside your paper at the place where you refer to a source.
- Refers a reader to the references list entry to see more about the source.
- Must include: Author’s last name and page number if available.

For help building your citations:
- Contact the Library Reference Desk: reference@ubalt.edu or (410) 837-4274.
- Use online, expert-built citation guides:
  - owl.english.purdue.edu.
- Use the style manuals (available in the library)

Building Citations

Step 1: First, cite information about the item itself, such as a book or journal article.

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container.
4. Other contributors.
5. Version.
6. Number.
7. Publisher.
8. Publication date.
9. Location.

Source: MLA Handbook, 8th ed.

Step 2: Next, cite information about the container, such as a database.

3. Title of container.
4. Other contributors.
5. Version.
6. Number.
7. Publisher.
8. Publication date.
9. Location.
### Example 1: A book with one author.

1. **Author**: Martin, George R. R.  
2. **Title of source**: A Game of Thrones.  
3. **Publisher**: Bantam Books,  
4. **Publication date**: 2011.

**Citation:**  

### Example 2: A chapter in a book.

1. **Author**: Elmes, Melissa Ridley.  
2. **Title of source**: “Tolkien as Nation Builder: Teaching The Lord of the Rings in an Epic Literature Class.”  
3. **Title of container**: Approaches to Teaching Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings and Other Works,  
4. **Other contributors**: edited by Leslie A. Donovan,  
5. **Publisher**: Modern Language Association of America,  
6. **Publication date**: 2015,  
7. **Location**: pp. 103-107.

**Citation:**  

### Example 3: A journal article in a database.

1. **Author**: Rockas, Leo.  
2. **Title of source**: “Darcy’s Intentions: Solving a Narrative Puzzle in Pride and Prejudice.”  
3. **Title of container**: Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal,  
4. **Number**: vol. 34,  
5. **Publication date**: 2012,  
6. **Location**: pp. 201-206.  
7. **Title of container**: Literature Resource Center,  
8. **Location**:
   go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=LitRC&sw=w&u=umd_ub&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA334378788&it=r&asid=36bb9ec7fb6e1b6b86b3998b62fdaeb3.

**Citation:**  

### Example 4: A page on a website.

1. **Author**: Wheeler, Brian.  
2. **Title of source**: “Can Song Lyrics Ever be Poetry?”  
3. **Title of container**: BBC News,  
4. **Publication date**: 14 Oct. 2016,  
5. **Location**:

**Citation:**  