Langsdale 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”)
- 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 Langsdale Library Reference Desk: langref@ubalt.edu or (410) 837.4274.
- EasyBib citation builder (in the “Student” links on the library website.)
- Use online, expert-built citation guides:
  - owl.english.purdue.edu
- Use the style manuals (available in the library or bookstore.)

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:


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*, edited by Leslie A. Donovan,
4. **Publisher**: Modern Language Association of America,
5. **Publication date**: 2015,
6. **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,

Citation: