

Updated MLA Style of Works Cited Citations

From *MLA Handbook*, 8th Edition
as interpreted by Mrs. Wojciechowski

- The style of in-text citations has undergone a few minor changes.
- The changes discussed here apply to **works cited citations.**

MLA style of citation *before* April 2016:

- A citation format for each kind of source
- Separate rules for citing a book, a journal article, a newspaper article, etc.
- Required scholars to know what kind of source they were using so they could choose the appropriate template

MLA style of citation *after* April 2016:

- Not centered on publication formats
- Deals with facts common to most works
- As such, a work in a new medium can be documented without having to consult new instructions.

Overall, the new MLA style of citation...

- ...is more streamlined.
- ...is **easier** because there are fewer things to remember.
- ...focuses on the overall purpose of source documentation.

Why change the MLA style of citation?

- The new style of citation applies to “traditional, linear texts” (Modern Language Association xiii) but also to “weblike texts and even to projects that aren’t texts at all” (Modern Language Association xii).
- Additionally, “student research and writing today take many forms other than the research paper” (Modern Language Association xiii).

Begin with the same evaluative method and consider:

- **Who** is the author of the source?
- **What** is the source?
- **How** was the source produced?
- **Where** did you find the source?
- **When** was the source published?

“The Core Elements”:

-An element is omitted if it is not relevant to the source.

-Note the punctuation.

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

What a basic citation might look like:

Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

*Not all Core Elements might appear in a citation. If you can't find an element, omit it.

1) Author.

- **Refers to the person or group primarily responsible for producing the work or the aspect of the work you focus on**
 - i.e., works in film and television are produced by many people working in a variety of capacities
 - If your discussion of a work focuses on a particular person – the performance of an actor or the ideas of the screenwriter - - begin the entry with his or her name and then a descriptive label.
 - Examples:
 - Gellar, Sarah Michelle, performer. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.
 - or
 - Whedon, Joss, creator. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

1) Author (continued)

- Last name, First name.
- Doesn't have to be an individual; can be an institution or organization
- Pseudonyms, including usernames, should be recorded as author names.
- No author's name? Skip the author element of the citation.
- Example:

@persiankiwi. "We have reports of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now - #Iraelection." *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., [twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106- 72](https://twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/229810672).

2) Title of source.

- Title appears in italics if the source is self-contained and independent.
- Title appears in quotation marks if the source is part of a larger work.

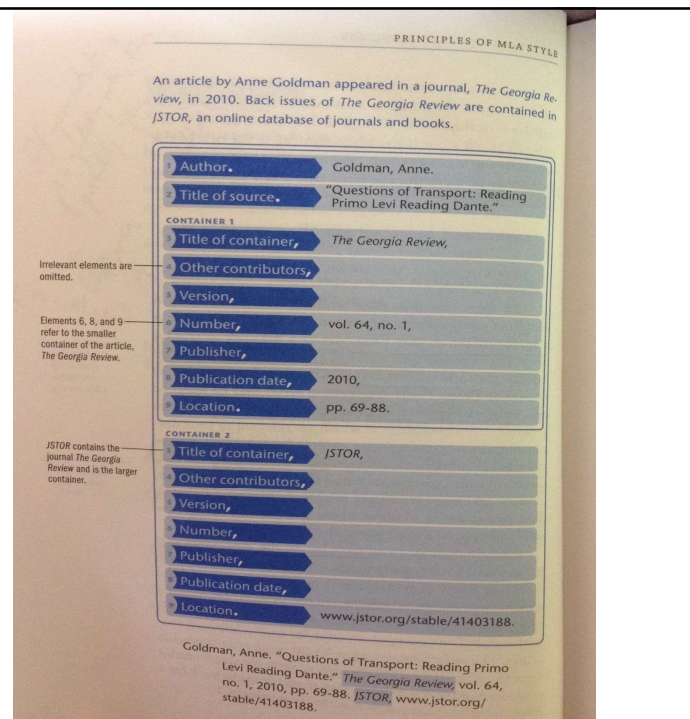
3) *Title of container,*

- When the source is part of a larger whole, the larger whole should be considered the **container**.
 - Examples: A poem in an anthology; a song on a CD; an article on a website
- The container is normally italicized and followed by a comma.
- **Nested containers:** when a source is part of multiple containers, like...
 - ...a blog as part of a network
 - ...back issues of a journal housed in an electronic database
 - ...a book of short stories available on *Google Books*

Account for all the containers that enclose your source.

3) *Title of container,*

Example:



3) *Title of container* (continued)

- **Nested containers** will probably be the most common and one of the newest elements of the MLA citation style.
- Since so much research is conducted online, tracking the containers for a source is very important for accurate documentation because **a single text can be available through multiple sources.**
 - Examples:
 - a book in print, via Kindle, or via a published PDF
 - an article in print, linked to a blog, or published in a journal available through a database

4) Other contributors,

- If other people aside from the author are credited in the source...
- And if their participation is important to your research...
- ...name the other contributors.
- Precede each name with a description of the other contributor's role.
 - Examples:
 - Adapted by
 - Translated by
 - Edited by
 - Introduction by
 - Directed by

5) Version,

- Versions refer to work released in more than one form.
- If this doesn't apply to the source, skip it.
- Examples:
 - Revised or second editions of a book
 - Unabridged version
 - Director's cut

Schubert, Franz. *Piano Trio in E Flat Major D 929*. Performance by Wiener Mozart-Trio, Unabridged version, Deutsch 929, Preiser Records, 2011.

6) Number,

- Include this element if you are documenting a source that is part of a sequence.
- If it doesn't apply to your source, skip it.
- Examples:
 - Journal issues
 - Comic books
 - Seasons and episodes of a television series

Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes*. 2nd ed., vol. 2, Oxford UP, 2002.

7) Publisher,

- The publisher is the entity responsible for making a source available to the public.
- If there isn't a publisher listed, then skip it.
- This element is largely unchanged from the former MLA citation style.

8) Publication date,

- Cite the date that is most relevant to your source.
 - Example: The date of an online work may appear at the site along with the print date of the same work. Since you consulted the online version, omit the print date.
- Write the full date as it appears on the source.
- If a source has been published in multiple editions, cite the most recent publication date.

9) Location.

- Depends on the medium of publication
- Examples:
 - Print sources can include a page number (p.) or numbers (pp.) to specify the location within a nested container.
 - Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) are sometimes attached to online sources and are more reliable than URLs.
 - URLs for online sources
 - MLA recommends the inclusion of hyperlinked URLs in the works cited list; follow your instructor's rule for this.
 - Omit the "http://"

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

10) Optional elements

- Your decision to include these elements depends on their importance to your use of the source.
- Some of the optional elements can be added to the end of an entry while others may appear after the core elements that they relate to.

10) Optional elements (continued)

- Examples:
 - Date of original publication
 - City of publication
 - Other facts about the source (i.e., part of a multivolume publication, series name)
 - Unexpected type of work (i.e., transcript, lecture, resolution of Congress)
 - Date of access

Work cited:
 Modern Language Association of
 America. *MLA Handbook*. 8th ed.,
 2016, pp. 20-53.

