

MLA 9 Format: A Quick Guide



Additional examples and rules available on the MLA Citation Guide <http://nwtc.libguides.com/citations/MLA>
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your instructor or the librarian.

Paper Format

Unless your instructor gives you other instructions, this is how the paper should be set up:

- Double-space the entire paper with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Use an easily readable font between 11 and 13 pts. One example is 12pt. Times New Roman.
- Add a running head in the upper right-hand corner with your last name, a space, and then a page number.
- List your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Center the title on the next line.

In-Text Citations

When you quote or paraphrase from a source, you need to give credit to that source by inserting a citation in the text that directs your reader to the Works Cited page entry for the source. This in-text citation typically consists of the author's name and page number (if there are any) in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Another option is to use the author's name in the sentence, with the page numbers (if there are any) in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Examples of Basic In-Text Citations:

The article goes on to say that "People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are" (Fagundes 1098).

OR

Fagundes added, "People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are" (1098).

Works Cited page entry:

Fagundes, David. "Talk Derby to Me: Intellectual Property Norms Governing Roller Derby Pseudonyms." *Texas Law Review*, vol. 90, no. 5, pp. 1093-1152. *EbscoHost*, search.ebscohost.com.

What if there is no individual author?

When a nongovernment organization is both the author and publisher, start with the title of the book or article (*MLA Handbook*, sec. 5.19). See the MLA guide for guidance on citing a source when a government agency is both the author and publisher.

Works Cited page entry:

MLA Handbook. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

What if there are no page numbers?

If your source uses explicit numbering of paragraphs (para.), chapters (ch.), or sections (sec.), include the relevant number, preceded by the abbreviated label. Place a comma between the author's name and label (*MLA Handbook*, sec. 6.20).

If your source has no page number or any other kind of number, do not include any number in the in-text citation. Do not count paragraphs or any other parts on your own (*MLA Handbook*, sec. 6.26).

Long Quotes (Block Quotations)

Quotations longer than four lines need to be set apart from the rest of the text in a new paragraph and set 1/2 inch from the left margin. Do **not** use quotation marks. The parenthetical citation comes **after** the final punctuation mark.

Example of Block Quotation:

He asserts the following:

The story of derby-name emergence probably has more to do with coincidence and path dependence than with conscious design. Derby pioneer Ivanna S. Pankin's classic derby name pre-dated her founding of Arizona Roller Derby in 2003. Rather, it was a handle and email address she used as a musician in Phoenix's punk rock scene. When she publicized her nascent league using the alias Ivanna S. Pankin, and the entire Austin scene was already using skate names, the leagues that popped up in their wake followed suit, and the practice of using colorful nicknames has been used by virtually all derby leagues and skaters since. (Fagundes 1093-1094)

Works Cited Page

- This is a separate page at the end of your paper. Each citation in the text must be listed on the Works Cited page; each listing on the Works Cited page must appear in the text.
- The title of the page should be centered and labeled Works Cited.
- All text is double-spaced, just like the rest of the paper.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inch to create a hanging indent.

Scholarly Journal Article from Online Source

In general, MLA recommends the following:

- Include the DOI ([Digital Object Identifier](#)) when available. Include the https://
- If there is no DOI, include a short permanent URL or permalink. Remove the https://
- If there is no short permanent URL given, use whatever URL is present. If the URL is from a library database, you can choose to shorten the URL to only include the part preceding the forward slash /. Remove the https://
 - "... in deciding when to include a URL, follow the preferences of your instructor" (*MLA Handbook*, sec. 5.84).

Basic Format

Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Article: Subtitle of Article." *Journal Title*, vol. xx, no. xx, year, pp. x-xx. DOI/URL.

Example with DOI – Article from a Library Database

Barlow, David H., and Katherine Ann Kennedy. "New Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment in Anxiety and Related Emotional Disorders: A Focus on Temperament." *Canadian Psychology*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2016, pp. 8-20. ProQuest, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/cap0000039>.

Example with no DOI- Article from a Library Database

Curthoys, Ann. "The Magic of History: Harry Potter and Historical Consciousness." *Agora*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2014, pp. 23-31. *EbscoHost*, search.ebscohost.com.

Example with no DOI- Article from Journal Website

Stein, Marc. "Theoretical Politics, Local Communities: The Making of US LGBT Historiography." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2005, pp. 605-625, www.robmacdougall.org/9817/files/2011/09/Stein-2005-LGBT-Historiography.pdf.

Magazine or Newspaper Article from Online Source

Article from a Library Database

Begley, Sharon. "Could This Be the End of Cancer?" *Newsweek*, vol. 158, no. 25, 19 Dec. 2011, pp. 36-39. *EbscoHost*, search.ebscohost.com.

Article from a Newspaper Website

Hallett, Vicky. "Prancercise: Fitness through Self-Expression." *News & Observer*, 24 Sept. 2013, www.newsobserver.com/living/article10279586.html.

Webpage with an Individual Author

Examples

Sheldon, Kathryn. "Brief History of Black Women in the Military." *The Women's Memorial*, Women's Memorial Foundation, 2017, www.womensmemorial.org/history-of-black-women.

Torpey, Elka. "Earning Green by Working Green: Wages and Outlook in Careers Protecting the Planet." *Career Outlook*, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019, www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2019/article/careers-protecting-the-planet.htm.

Webpage with No Individual Author: Nongovernmental Organization

Rule

According to the *MLA Handbook* (5.19), when a nongovernmental organization is both the author and the publisher, begin the entry with the title of the source.

Example

Tuning Out: Americans on the Edge of Politics. Pew Research Center, 9 Jan. 2024, www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/01/09/tuning-out-americans-on-the-edge-of-politics/.

Webpage with No Individual Author: Government Agency

Rule

According to the *MLA Handbook*, when a government agency/department/entity is both the author and the publisher, and the writer [you!] is a non-specialist/student, you can start the citation with the name of the specific government entity (sec. 5.20).

Example

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *What Is Diabetes?* 5 Sept. 2023,
www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html.

Online Videos

YouTube Videos

American Heart Association. "Heart Failure Warning Signs and Symptoms." *YouTube*, 7 Jan. 2022,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=52eMwhf8Ufl.

Beyoncé. "Beyoncé - Formation (Official Video)." *YouTube*, 9 Dec. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDZJPJV__bQ.

TED Talks from the TED Website

Allende, Isabel. "Tales of Passion." *TED*, Mar. 2007, www.ted.com/talks/isabel_allende_tells_tales_of_passion.

Personal Communication

Examples

Rodrigo, Olivia. Personal interview with the author. 10 Aug. 2023.

Winfrey, Oprah. Zoom interview with the author. 30 Dec. 2022.

Xiong, Jo. Email to the author. 3 May 2024.

Book

Print Book Examples

Bradley, Heather. *Design Funny: A Graphic Designer's Guide to Humor*. 1st ed., HOW Books, 2015.

Grazer, Brian, and Charles Fishman. *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life*. Simon & Schuster, 2015.

E-Book Example

Klausen, Jytte. *The Cartoons That Shook the World*. e-book ed., Yale University Press, 2009.

Chapter in an Edited Book Example

Kang-Brown, Jason, et al. "Zero-Tolerance Policies Do Not Make Schools Safer." *School Safety*, edited by Noah Berlatsky, Greenhaven Press, 2016, pp. 50-52.

Ask for Help!

Contact Julie Chapman: julie.chapman@nwtc.edu, 920-498-5490

1. Call the Library: 920-498-5493.
2. Go to the library's webpage and click on [Ask a Librarian](#). Search for an answer, email your question, or start a live chat during Library hours.
3. Text a librarian at 920-754-3124 during Library hours.
4. Stop by the Library Desk!