

MLA Style Overview

A short guide to citing sources using MLA style (8th edition)

Commonly used in the humanities, the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook* no longer emphasizes the publication format, relying instead on the following core elements and simplified punctuation between elements:

- Author.
- Title of source.
- Title of container (the larger whole, e.g., collection, periodical, etc.),
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location (e.g., page number, URL, doi).

To introduce the bibliography, the phrase 'Works Cited' should be centered (not in bold or underlined). Acknowledge authors, whose words or ideas you have used, in two places in your essay: in the 'Works Cited' section and in the body of the essay via in-text citations.

Formatting Checklist (Works Cited & In-text Citations)

- ✓ Double-space entries.
- ✓ Indent the second line of each work (hanging indent).
- ✓ Italicize titles.
- ✓ For English titles and subtitles, capitalize all title words (except articles, prepositions and conjunctions when they fall in the middle of a title).
- ✓ For French titles and subtitles, capitalize only the first word and all words normally capitalized (e.g., people and places).

Books

One author

Munro, Alice. *Too Much Happiness*. McClelland and Stewart, 2009.

In-text: (Munro 39)

Title of source

Publisher

Publication date

Page number

Two authors

Coates, Colin M., and Geoffrey Ewen. *Introduction aux études canadiennes: Histoires, identités et cultures*. Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2012.

Hanging indent

In-text: (Coates and Ewen 30)

When a source has two authors, reverse the first of the names, follow it with a comma and and; give the second name in normal order.

Publisher abbreviation is accepted (Presses).

Revised edition

Multiple editions

Dickason, Olive Patricia. *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*. Rev. ed., Oxford UP, 2006.

In-text: (Dickason 102)

Edited book

Bloom, Harold, editor. *Margaret Atwood*. New ed., Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2009.

In-text: (Bloom 117)

Title of source: Chapter titles are set in quotation marks

Book chapter

Won, Kin Ho. "A Gay Actor with Multiple Scripts: Impression Management Strategies to Comply with Traditional Chinese Family Norms." *Skeletons in the Closet*, edited by Aysan Se'ver and Jan Trost, Wilfred Laurier UP, 2011, pp. 121-38.

Title of container : Book title is set in italics

Chapter author

Location (Page range)

In-text: (Won 130)

Title of container

E-book

Goldman, Marlene. *Rewriting Apocalypse in Canadian Fiction*. McGill-Queen's UP, 2005. *Scholars Portal Books*, books2.scholarsportal.info/viewdoc.html?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/gibson_crkn/2009-12-01/4/407624.

In-text: (Goldman 75-80)

Location (URL, http:// not necessary)

Articles

Article titles are set in quotation marks

E-journal

Heller, Monica. "Langues, communauté et identité: le discours expert et la question du français au Canada."

Anthropologie et sociétés, vol. 31, no. 1, 2007, pp. 39-54. *Érudit*,

Title of container 2 (digital platform)

www.erudit.org/recherche/as/2007/v31/n1/015981ar.pdf.

Location (URL)

In-text: (Heller 42)

Title of container 1: Periodical titles are set in italics

Print journal

Pigott, Brooke S., and Madeline A. Kalbach. "Language Effects on Ethnic Identity in Canada." *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2005, pp. 3-18.

In-text: (Pigott and Kalbach 12)

Magazine article

Gladwell, Malcolm. "The Tweaker." *The New Yorker*, 14 Nov. 2011, pp. 32-35.

In-text: (Gladwell 33)

Newspaper article in print

Gagnon, Lysiane. "The Tuition Protesters' Fellow Travellers." *Globe & Mail*, 21 May 2012, pp. A11+.

In-text: (Gagnon A11)

Not printed on consecutive pages. First page is p. 11.

Newspaper article online

Brody, Jane E. "Mental Reserves Keep Brain Agile." *New York Times*, 11 Dec. 2007, p. F7. *Expanded Academic ASAP*,
go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=EAIM&sw=w&u=yorku_main&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA172282083&it=r&asid=a
b6e0bf58adc1f1213b3a6498a2009c6.

In-text: (Brody, par. 3)

Paragraph number. Place a comma after author's name.

Web Pages

Entire website

Occupy Toronto. 2015, www.occupyto.org/.

No author

In-text: (*Occupy Toronto*)

Web page

"Exploring the Historical Consciousness of Canadians." *Canadians and Their Pasts/Les Canadiens et leurs passés*, www.canadiansandtheirpasts.ca/.

In-text: ("Exploring", pars. 1-2)

Encyclopedias

Print

“Conflict Theory.” *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, general editor, George Ritzer, vol. 1, Sage Publications, 2005, pp. 134-35.

In-text: (“Conflict Theory” 135)

Digital

Peters, Carolyn J. "Aboriginal Mothering." *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, edited by Andrea O'Reilly, SAGE Publications, 2010, pp. 101-3. *SAGE Knowledge*, sk.sagepub.com/reference/motherhood/n1.xml?term=%22aboriginal%20mothering%22.

In-text: (Peters, par. 2)

Film & Media

If in your paper you are discussing primarily the film list the title first, if concentrating on the director, list the director first.

Film

Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie. Directed by Sturla Gunnarson, Entertainment One / National Film Board of Canada, 2011.

In-text: (*Force of Nature* 00:03:16-17)

TV

Butt, Brent, creator. *Corner Gas: Season Two*. PrairiePants Productions, 2005.

In-text: (Butt)

If in your paper you are concentrating on the TV show list the title first, if concentrating on the creator, list the creator first.

Government Documents

Authored, Print

Hurley, Mary C., and Jill Wherrett. *In Brief: The Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. PRB99-24E, Library of Parliament, Parliamentary Research Branch, 2000.

In-text: (Hurley and Wherrett 3)

Digital, Corporate author, government report

Canada, Office of the Auditor General. *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 2011: Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*. 2011, celarc.ca/cppc/229/229940.pdf.

In-text: (Canada, Office of the Auditor General 13)

Indirect Sources

One author quotes another

e.g. In a 2010 book by K. Anderson, you find a quote taken from Karl Marx' *Collected Works* (1975).

In the body of your essay, cite both authors, indicating the author of the original quote (Marx) in your sentence, and the author in whose work you found the quote (Anderson), in an in-text citation.

Marx astutely predicted that the railroad would “become the forerunner of modern industry” (qtd. in Anderson 22).

“quoted in”

In the Works Cited list, cite only the author in whose secondary source you found the quote (Anderson).

For more information on how to cite all types of sources using MLA style, see:

Complete style guide: *MLA Handbook, 8th ed., 2016.*

<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3591392>

<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3637163>

