

Modern Language Association  
**MLA Formatting  
and Citations**  
MLA 9th Edition



*Tutoring &  
Learning Center*

Writing Lab  
M212-B  
professional tutorsupport@lsc.edu

**Make an appointment with a writing tutor at [lsc.edu/TLCbookings](https://lsc.edu/TLCbookings)**

## Formatting Your Essay

- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Double-spaced (remember to take the extra space after paragraph out)
- Top, left corner of paper: Student Name, Instructor Name, Class, Date
- Top, right corner of header: Student last name and page number
- Title should be centered, no bold or italics

### Example:

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Flintstone 1

Mary Flintstone

Instructor McCormick

English 103 CRN 2598

12 December 2016

#### Nature versus Nurture: What is More Influential?

The nature versus nurture debate has been going on for what seems like a long time; one can see the effects that both of these have on a young, developing mind.

### In-Text Citations

- In-text citations help your reader know what work and author you are referencing and helps you avoid plagiarism!
- For every idea, quote, fact, etc. that is not your own, you need to provide an in-text citation.
- Place the in-text citation directly after the quote, paraphrase, or summary.
  - The in-text citation contains the author's last name and a page number if you have it. The punctuation comes directly after the right parenthesis. Example: (Smith 23).
- The in-text citation must correspond with your works cited page
  - The in-text citation should correlate with the first word(s) listed on your Works Cited page
- If there is no author:

- Use the first 1-3 words of the article or website title!
  - Example:
  - Title: "New Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment in Anxiety and Related Emotional Disorders"
  - Citation: ("New Approaches").
- Indirect Sources
  - Quoting someone other than the author/editor of a source from that source
    - (qtd. in Smith).
  - NOTE: Instead of quoting an indirect source, it is best to find the original source
- Multiple Sources in one sentence
  - If you are citing two sources in the same sentence or paragraph, separate the sources by a semicolon
    - . . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).
- When you don't need the name...
  - Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).
  - If you name the author/title in the sentence
  - If you are quoting the same work multiple times in the same paragraph

### Direct Quote, Paraphrase, and Summary

- Quotations
  - Identical (word-for-word) segment from the original source
  - Must be attributed to the original author and cited
- Paraphrasing
  - Ideas or passages from a text in your own words
  - Must be attributed to the original author and cited
- Summarizing
  - Putting the main ideas of the work in your own words
  - Significantly shorter than the original
  - Must be attributed to the original author and cited

## The Anatomy of a Source

### The Nine Core Elements

**1. Author.**

The person/people who wrote the source

**2. Title of Source.**

The title of the source

**3. Title of Container,**

The title of the place where the source exists

**4. Other Contributors,**

Are there editors or other contributors

**5. Version,**

The volume number or version

**6. Number,**

The issue number (often used for articles)

**7. Publisher,**

What company published the source? (Most often used for books)

**8. Publication Date,**

When was the source published?

**9. Location.**

Where can I find the source?

### OPTIONAL (or if the instructor requests it):

**Date Accessed.**

The date the source was obtained (for electronic sources, if an instructor requires)

*Elements are in the order they appear, regardless of source type!*

### What's a container?

The container is the “larger whole” in which your source can be found. For example, if you are citing an article in a print scholarly journal, the container is the journal itself.

- a. Can you have multiple containers?
  - i. Yes! For example, an article in a scholarly journal found on a database has two containers—the journal itself and the database!
- b. What are some examples of containers?
  - i. An anthology of short stories or essays
  - ii. A website
  - iii. A blog
  - iv. A streaming site
  - v. A database

### What if I don't have all of the core elements?

Not every source will have all of the elements or requested pieces of a citation. And that's okay!

- Remember—you can't cite what you don't know!
- If you do not have one of the elements requested in your citation, skip over that part.

What do multiple containers look like?

**1. Author.**

The person/people who wrote the source

**2. Title of Source.**

Container 1:

The title of the source

**3. Title of Container,**

The title of the place where the source exists

**4. Other Contributors,**

Are there editors or other contributors

**5. Version,**

The volume number or version

**6. Number,**

The issue number (often used for articles)

**7. Publisher,**

What company published the source? (Most often used for books)

**8. Publication Date,**

When was the source published?

**9. Location.**

Where can I find the source?

Container 2:

**3. Title of Container,**

The title of the place where the source exists

**4. Other Contributors,**

Are there editors or other contributors

**5. Version,**

The volume number or version

**6. Number,**

The issue number (often used for articles)

**7. Publisher,**

What company published the source? (Most often used for books)

**8. Publication Date,**

When was the source published?

**9. Location.**

Where can I find the source?

### MLA 9th Edition Changes

- MLA 9 advises using italics for emphasis, word references, and foreign words.
- Inclusive language to include the pronoun "they" as a singular pronoun.
- Be conscious of the effect on various audiences of gender-specific terms, stereotyped language, people-first language, pronouns, and capitalization.

## Works Cited – Formatting

### **Book**

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date. URL or DOI if necessary.

Example:

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

\*NOTE\* For Two authors, use “and” to separate. For the first author, Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name:

Door, Michael, and Louise Door.

For three or more authors, use “et al”:

Door, Michael, et al.

### **Work in a Collection (print)**

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s),  
Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Example:

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

### **YouTube/Online Video**

Author. “Name of Video,” *Site Name*, uploaded by, date uploaded, URL.

Example:

McGonigal, Jane. “Gaming and Productivity.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012,  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E).

\*NOTE: If the author and uploader are the same, list them as the author and don’t include “uploaded by”

## An Episode of a TV Series on a Streaming Service

Example:

|    |                    |                            |
|----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | Author             |                            |
| 2  | Title of Source    | "I Don't Want to Be Free." |
| 3  | Title of Container | <i>Killing Eve</i> ,       |
| 4  | Contributor        |                            |
| 5  | Version            |                            |
| 6  | Number             | season 1, episode 7,       |
| 7  | Publisher          | BBC America,               |
| 8  | Publication Date   | 2018.                      |
| 9  | Location           |                            |
| 10 | Contributors       |                            |
| 3  | Title of Container | <i>Hulu</i> ,              |
| 4  | Contributor        |                            |
| 5  | Version            |                            |
| 6  | Number             |                            |
| 7  | Publisher          |                            |
| 8  | Publication Date   |                            |
| 9  | Location           | www.hulu.com.              |
| 10 | Contributors       |                            |

FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

"I Don't Want to Be Free." *Killing Eve*, season 1, episode 7, BBC America, 2018. *Hulu*, www.hulu.com.

## Article in a Scholarly Journal (Database)

Author. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, volume number (vol.#), issue number (no.#), Publication date, Page number(s). *Database*, <https://doi.org/xxxxxxxxxxxxx>.

Example:

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *ProQuest*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0018246X06005966>.

## Page on a Website

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). "Name of Page." *Name of Entire*

*Site/Publisher*, date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI, or permalink.

Example:

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*,

[www.ehow.com/how\\_10727\\_make-vegetarian-chili.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html).

## Article in a Periodical

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

Example:

Buchman, Dana. "A Special Education." *Good Housekeeping*, Mar. 2006, pp. 143-48.

## MLA Resources

- **Purdue OWL:** [owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](http://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)
- **Knightcite:** [www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/](http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/)
  - USE WITH CAUTION AND DOUBLE-CHECK EVERYTHING
- **The Tutoring and Learning Center Writing Lab:** [www.lsc.edu/TLCBOOKINGS](http://www.lsc.edu/TLCBOOKINGS)
- Drop in or make an appointment

**Reference copies of the MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Guides are available in  
Erickson Library and The Tutoring and Learning Center.**

## Works Cited

*MLA Handbook: Ninth Edition*. New York, The Modern Language Association of America, 2021.