MLA style provides a set of rules for citing the sources you use when researching and writing essays. This ensures that readers will be able to easily retrace where you found information and will help you to avoid plagiarism. This handout gives some basic guidelines for constructing a Works Cited page in MLA style. Note that your Works Cited page should list every source you consulted in alphabetical order by the last name of the author. If you are uncertain about how to cite a particular source, consult your handbook, your instructor, or a writing center tutor.

The MLA replaced its seventh edition guidelines with its eighth edition guidelines in April 2017. The following examples reflect the eighth edition changes. For more information, see www.purdueowl.edu “Eighth Edition Changes.”

**Citing Books**

**Basic format**
Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year of publication.

**A book with a single author**

**A book with multiple authors**
The first name given on the title page should be listed in last name, first name format. All other author names should be listed with the first name first.


If a book has more than three authors you may list only the first author’s name, followed by the Latin phrase “et al.” This means “and others.”

**An edited collection or anthology**
If citing an entire collection, use the name of the editor or editors in the place of an author.


**An essay or story from an edited collection or anthology**
If citing one piece from an edited collection, you will give the name of the author, the titles of the piece and collection, and the name of the editor.


**Citing Periodicals**

**Scholarly journal article**
Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. , no. , Date , pp.


**Magazine article**
Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine*, Day Month Year, pages.


**Newspaper article**
Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper*, Day Month Year, pages.

Citing Electronic Sources

An entire website
Be sure to ask your instructor about what kinds of electronic sources are acceptable for your assignment. Not every website will include all of the following information, so try to be as thorough as possible. Include the URL or web address to help readers locate your sources. Note that you should include the date of access. This is important because the content on webpages may be updated. If the site does not include the date it was posted or updated, give the abbreviation n.d.

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Name of Site. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).


A single page from a website
For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.


Scholarly article from an online database


Article from an online scholarly journal
MLA requires a page range for articles that appear in Scholarly Journals. If the journal you are citing appears exclusively in an online format (i.e. there is no corresponding print publication) that does not make use of page numbers, indicate the URL or other location information.


Citing Interviews

Interview conducted by you
List by the interviewee’s name. Be sure to note the type of interview. You may also have a “Telephone interview.”


Published Interview (print or broadcast)
List the interview by the full name of the interviewee; use italics to cite a larger work the interview is from.
