

# The Writing Center

## Formatting a Works Cited Page in MLA Style—8<sup>th</sup> Edition\*

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](http://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

Díaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Riverhead Books, 2007.

#### 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.

Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing: With Readings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Norton, 2012.

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.

Valentine, Tamara M., ed. *Language and Prejudice*. Pearson Longman, 2004.

#### 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.

Rushkoff, Douglas. “Experimental Programming.” *Many Americas: Reading and Writing Across the Cultural Divides*. Ed. Gilbert H. Muller. Houghton Mifflin, 2006, pp. 566-71.

### Citing Periodicals

#### Scholarly journal article

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

Fraistat, Neil. “Illegitimate Shelley: Radical Piracy and the Textual Edition as Cultural Performance.” *PMLA*, vol. 109, no. 3, May 1994, pp. 409-23.

#### Magazine article

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

Ruby, Jeff. “The Delicious Life of Nick Offerman.” *Chicago*, Oct. 2013, pp. 66-69.

#### Newspaper article

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

Hoover, Eric. “Talk of Student-Aid Reform Prompts Antitrust Inquiry.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 5 July 2013, p. L1.

## 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).

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003, [www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory). Accessed 10 May 2006.

### 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.

Goldman, Jason G. "Why You Should Care That Sea Cucumbers Are Going Extinct." *io9*. Gawker Media, 14 March 2014, [www.gawker.com/cucumbers-extinction/overview](http://www.gawker.com/cucumbers-extinction/overview). Accessed 12 Feb. 2016.

### Scholarly article from an online database

Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year): pages. *Name of database*. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Shillingsburg, Peter L. "Interpretive Consequences of Textual Criticism." *Text* 16 (2006): 63-5. *JSTOR*. Web. 8 Mar. 2014.

### 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.

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, [www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362](http://www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362). Accessed 20 May 2009.

Levenson, Robert W. "The Autonomic Nervous System and Emotion." *Emotion Review*, vol 6, no. 4, 2014, pp. 100-112, [www.emotionreview.edu/anse/64\\_article](http://www.emotionreview.edu/anse/64_article). Accessed 13 Mar. 2014.

## 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."

Bataille, Georges. Personal interview. 17 Mar. 2014.

### 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.

Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-50.

