**MLA Format: 8th Edition**

**Guidelines and Examples**

**About the Format**

The eighth edition of MLA Format calls for the use of a universal template when citing sources on the works cited page, or a list of ordered and fundamental elements that should be incorporated *for any source*. Rather than following individual formulas for various source types, the eighth edition of MLA calls upon one model which is intended to be applicable to all scholarly sources. The formula is as follows, including the punctuation which should follow each component:

1. Author.
2. Title of Source.
3. Title of Container, (meaning the larger source that contains the source being documented, such as a periodical or web site)
4. Other Contributors, (meaning an editor, translator, etc.)
5. Version or Edition,
6. Number, (volume and issue)
7. Publisher,
8. Publication Date,
9. Location. (meaning page numbers, website URL or DOI, **NOT** a city)

No matter which type of source you are citing on your works cited page (book, database article, website, documentary, etc., etc., etc.), you will use the same list of core components as you see them listed above.

**Works Cited Page Formatting Topics: Quick Reference Guide**

**Topic Guideline What else does this mean?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Formatting differences by source type?** | *No*--the same model is used regardless of source type | Citations for websites, journal articles from databases, books, and all other sources include the same core components (listed above) |
| **What does the ‘Container’ in the formula refer to?** | The overall source in which the source is ‘contained’ | Ex. Website, database, journal |
| **Abbreviation of common terms and other words?** | *Some*; volume and issue are written vol. and no., and months are abbreviated to the first 3 letters; University and Press in publisher names are abbreviated U & P | Editor, translator, edited by and publisher names are not abbreviated |
| **When is the use of et al. required?** | When a work has more than *2* authors | When a work has *3* or more authors, only the first name is given in full, followed by et al. |
| **How are page numbers indicated?** | With p. (single page) or pp. (multiple pages) | Example: p. 9 or pp. 10-13 |
| **How is the location of a source indicated?** | By indicating page numbers, a website URL, or a DOI. | City and/or State of publication is NEVER included. |
| **Are months and seasons included when citing a scholarly journal?** | *Yes*---when a month or season is given, this is included in addition to the year of publication | Example: Fall 2016 |
| **Are website URLs included in citations?** | *Yes---*URLs should be included, without http:// or https:// and are considered a Location. | Use a DOI if available instead of a URL |
| **Is a date of access included in citations of online works?** | *Not required but encouraged*---especially when dates of publication are not available. | Example: Accessed 15 Aug. 2016. |
| **Is a source medium provided for a source?** | *No* | ‘Web’ and ‘Print’ are no longer included in a citation |
| **What should you do if website and publisher names are the same?** | Only list the name once, for the website (will be italicized) | The title of a website (container) is oftentimes identical to the publisher of the site, so remember to only include once. |
| **What spacing should there be on the works cited page?** | The works cited page should be double-spaced throughout | If the works cited page appears to have extra spacing, you may need to adjust this to delete the extra space |
| **How is the works cited page indented?** | All second and subsequent lines in each entry are indented ½ inch | Only the first line of each entry should have no indentation. |
| **What is the alignment for the works cited page?** | The works cited page is left aligned; the first line of each entry is flush left with no indentation | All entries begin on the left margin |
| **How are entries on the works cited page arranged?** | Alphabetically, according to the first word that starts each citation | Most entries will begin with an author’s last name, so this list is usually alphabetized by author last names. |
| **What is the title of the works cited page?** | The title “Works Cited” should be centered and included at the top of the page above the first entry; it should contain no special formatting | The title “Works Cited” should never be bolded, underlined, or italicized |
| **Which components of a citation receive special formatting?** | Titles of Sources (ex. Books, articles) and Containers (Books, Websites, Databases) | Titles of Containers are italicized; Titles of Sources can be either italicized or placed in quotation marks |

**Examples**

**Book with More than Two Authors and an Edition of a Book Other than the First:**

When a work has three or more authors (so more than two), list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others") in place of the subsequent authors' names. For a subsequent edition of a book, include the number of the edition after the title.

Beebe, Steven A., et al. *Communication: Principles for a Lifetime*. 5th ed., Pearson, 2012.

**Scholarly Journal Article from a Database:**

Treat online databases such as ProQuest, JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and others from which you obtain a scholarly journal article as an additional Container: Include the title of the database italicized followed by a DOI (a second Location component in addition to page numbers.) or URL if a DOI is not available. Recognize that a print scholarly journal article or one obtained online as a stand-alone PDF will be cited the same way, but will not include a second Container (database name) and/or a second Location (DOI or URL).

Liao, Hsiang-Ann. “Examining the Role of Collaborative Learning in a Public Speaking Course.”

*College Teaching*, vol. 62, no. 2, Spring 2014, pp. 47-54,  *EBSCO: Academic Search Complete,*

doi: 10.1080/87567555.2013.855891.

**Page/Article from a Website:**

If the Publisher of a website is identical to the name of the website (a common occurrence), only list it once. Remember that when providing a URL, DO NOT include http:// or https:// at the front of the URL.

“Preparing a Speech.” *Toastmasters International,* 2016, www.toastmasters.org/Resources/Public-

Speaking-Tips/Preparing-a-Speech. Accessed 5 Aug. 2016.

**Ebook:**

The citation for an Ebook will look identical to that of a print book, but will have the additional elements of the online database from which it was obtained (second Container) and a URL (Location).

Hepp, Andreas. *Transcultural Communication.* John Wiley & Sons, 2015, *ProQuest Ebook*

*Central,* ebookcentral.proquest.com.db07.linccweb.org/lib/fsw/detail.action?docID=1895706.

**Online Magazine:**

The title for an online magazine and the title of the website (Container) are typically one in the same. Both are always italicized and included after the title of the article or smaller source.

Morgan, Nick. “How Can You Deal with the Fear of Public Speaking?” *Forbes*, Forbes Media, 15

Aug. 2015, www.forbes.com/sites/nickmorgan/2015/08/18/how-can-you-deal-with-the-

fear-of-public-speaking/#492d0bcb1e25. Accessed 17 July 2016.

**Work in an Anthology or a Collection of Essays:**

A work in an anthology or a collection of essays will include an author and an editor or editors.

Alfaro, Rosa M. “Popular Cultures and Participatory Communication: On the Road to New

Perspectives.” *Communication for Social Change Anthology: Historical and Contemporary*

*Readings,* edited by Alfonzo Gumucio-Dagron and Thomas Tufte, Communication for Social

Change Consortium, 2006, pp. 738-749.

**Pamphlet:**

A citation for a pamphlet will largely look like that of a book. Typically however, pamphlets have a corporate or organizational author rather than an individual author or authors, or will have no author at all.

*The Eight Public Speaking Competencies*. The Oral Communication Center, University of Colorado

**Online Dictionary or Reference Work:**

Online (and print) dictionaries or reference works typically do not have an individual author, and will begin with the dictionary entry or topic being researched. Online dictionaries and reference works will usually always contain two Containers: the name of the reference work and the website from which it was obtained.

“Nonverbal Communication.” *Collins English Dictionary*, Harper Collins, 2012, *Dictionary.com*,

www.dictionary.com/browse/nonverbal-communication?&o=100074&s=t. Accessed 10

Aug. 2016.

**Personal Interview**

Personal interviews will be the shortest citations, containing only 3 components: The name of the person interviewed, the source type ‘Personal interview’, and the date of the interview. Personal interviews therefore have no Containers or special formatting (italics or quotation marks).

Walters, Myra. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2016.

**Podcast**

In addition to indicating the title of the podcast and its overall source (Container), you want to indicate the larger source where these are both from.

“What Makes Us…Us.” *Ted Radio Hour*, from NPR, 15 July 2016, www.npr.org/podcasts/

510298/ted-radio-hour. Accessed 11 Aug. 2016.

**YouTube Video**

If the author’s name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploaded, cite the author’s name before the title. For any YouTube video cited, be sure to verify the credibility and/or credentials of the author/uploader of the video.

“Make Body Language Your Superpower.” *YouTube*, Stanford Graduate School of Business, 14

May 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFLjudWTuGQ. Accessed 5 Aug. 2016.

**Documentary/Movie**

Include the name of the director, the title of the film, the film studio or distributor, and the release year.

Brickler, Chris, director. *How Will We Love*. Bridgestone Multimedia Group, 2009.

**Stand-Alone, Online Scholarly Journal Article, Report, etc. (usually in PDF form)**

Morreale, Sherwin P. et al. “Why Communication is Important: A Rationale for the Centrality of

the Study of Communication.” *Journal of the Association for Communication Administration*,

vol. 29, Jan. 2000, pp. 1-25, .natcom.org/uploadedFiles/More\_Scholarly\_Resources/

Chairs\_Corner/ Making \_the\_Case\_for\_and\_Advancing\_the\_Discipline/PDF-ATD-JACA

Why\_Communication \_is\_Important\_%20Rationale\_for\_Centrality\_of\_the\_Study\_of\_

Communication.pdf**.** Accessed 10 June 2016.

**Notes:**

Remember, no matter which source you are citing, the formula is the same; if certain components of the formula are not available, you simply leave them out. Some sources will include more or less elements than others, as in the case of a book versus a website: Books and websites both follow the same formula, but the website will have both an article/webpage title and a container, whereas the title for a book is the container; a website will also have a URL and if appropriate a date of access, whereas these elements don’t apply to a traditional print book or other print source.

**Additional Resources:**

**MLA Format 8th Edition @ the Purdue Online Writing Lab:**

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/

**The MLA Style Center:**

https://style.mla.org/

**Writing Center and Oral Communication Center**