

The Modern Languages Association (MLA) style for documentation is widely used in the humanities. This guide provides examples for citing common types of sources and identifying them in the text of your essay. For more information, consult the **9<sup>th</sup> edition** of the *MLA Handbook* (PE 1478 M57 2021). Copies are available at Langara Library, including one at the Reference Desk.

### The Core Elements

MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition is an updated, streamlined system of documentation created to reflect the changing nature of modes of publication in a digital age. Instead of structured examples, MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition gives the author/writer the flexibility of using a core set of elements to base the citation on. **The core elements** are the base for the citation whether the item cited is a book, journal article, website, film, or something else. Keep in mind not all resource types will have every core element.

One of the changes to note in the MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition is the removal of the access dates for the citations of online sources in the “Works Cited” list.

In the order they will appear in your citation, the core elements are:

**Author:** The creator(s) of the resource listed as they appear on the resource (including order), followed by a period. See below for name ordering and multiple authors.

Single author: Anzaldúa, Gloria.

Two authors: Simpson, Leanne, and Edna Mantiowabi. (Last, First, and First Last.)

Three or more authors: Park, Yoon Jung, et al.

Corporate author: British Columbia, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

If the person or group primarily responsible for the work is not an author, you can use their name as the author element and add a description of their role (D’arcens, Louise, editor.)

**Title of source:** The full name of the resource, in one of the formats below, followed by a period:

*italics* (book, play, report, periodical name, film, album, TV series, entire website)

or

“quotation marks” (journal/newspaper/magazine article title, essay/chapter/story/poem in a collection, article or posting on a website, song name, episode name, email subject, tweet text).

**Title of container:** A container is a larger work that includes the resource you are citing. Examples include:

an article (title) in a journal (container title)

an essay/chapter (title) in an edited book (container title)

an episode (title) of a TV series (container title)

or a post (title) on a website (container title).

Container titles use the same rules in terms of italics and quotation marks as titles and are followed by a comma.

**Contributor:** Credit all contributors to the work other than the author if their participation is important to your research or the identification of the work (adaptors, editors, translators, illustrators, contributing authors). Precede each name with a description of the contribution and follow with a comma

Translated by Ken Liu  
Illustrated by Yoko Shimizu,  
Introduction by N.K. Jemisin

**Version:** Include any notation of the resource as a version of a work released in more than one form as it appears followed by a comma.

For books this is usually an edition (8th edition, revised ed.,)  
other resource types may have other version designations (Director's Cut, Version 2.3.2).

**Number:** If the resource is part of a numbered sequence or is a periodical (journal, newspaper, magazine) include any notation as it appears, followed by a comma

vol. 22, no. 4  
season 3, episode 6,

**Publisher:** List the name of the primary publishing organization or company as it appears on the resource, followed by a comma

The MIT Press,  
National Film Board,  
Vancouver Coastal Health,

If more than one publisher is given equal prominence, separate names with a slash

Vancouver Art Gallery/Black Dog Publishing,

There is no need to list a publisher for most periodicals, a work published by its author, a website published by an organization of the same name, or a resource published by a website that does not contribute to the content (YouTube, Tumblr). If a publisher's name includes an ampersand (e.g. Taylor & Francis) replace the ampersand (&) with "and" (e.g. Taylor and Francis).

**Publication Date:** Use the date most closely associated with the version or edition of the resource you used. Write the full date as it appears on the source followed by a period, if it is the end of a citation, or a comma, if the citation continues.

For individual articles, posts, etc. from the web use the specific posting date.  
For projects you can use a range (2008-2017).  
Some online sources such as Tweets or comments may also list a timestamp to include.

**Location:** Location specifies where in a work the source appears (not the place of publishing), followed by a period.

Print works may have a page number (p. 67.) or page range (pp.3-5.),  
Online sources may optionally include a URL (a stable permalink if possible) or a DOI (digital object identifier) (<https://doi.org/10.1353/pmc.2000.0021>).  
MLA recommends including URLs in the works-cited list, but check with your instructor for their preference.  
In some cases the location will take the form of a disc number (series on DVD) or place (lecture, art work on exhibit, etc.).

## NOTES

**Optional elements:** Optional elements can be included at the discretion of the writer. These include: date of original publication, city of publication, date of access, and other facts about the source.

**Missing elements:** Unlike the previous version of MLA citation, you no longer need to include information that is not available from a source. Don't use n.p. or n.d. if there are no pages or dates, just leave it out.

## In-text Citations

In-text citations identify the sources of your information within the text of the paper and direct the reader to the full reference entry in your works cited list at the end of the paper. In-text citations include the author and the page number(s) referenced and are typically in parentheses. If there is no author, use the title instead.

### With one author

According to Roy (32)...  
Despite their initial misgivings... (Roy 32)

### With two authors

Recent research by Talmidge and Lee (67)...  
A recent study indicates that...(Talmidge and Lee 67)

### With three or more authors

The findings of Pulido et al. (23)...  
Researchers found that...(Pulido et al. 23)

**With no author:** Use the complete title, or a short form of the title if it is long, in place of an author. Book titles are italicized, article titles are put in quotation marks.

According to the *Dictionary of Symbols* (83)...  
Recent data collected by...("Arts funding crisis" 3)

**Corporate authors:** Resource authors are not always named individuals; they may be organizations, companies, or other entities.

According to the BC Civil Liberties Association (7)...  
Current tax law stipulates that...(Revenue Canada 223)

**Multiple Sources:** If you are crediting an idea to more than one source, separate citations with a semicolon within your in-text citation.

Both authors agree that...(Miles 16; Vukovich 27)

**Time-based media:** when citing media such as films or videos you can include a time code expressed as hours:minutes:seconds. (Debord 01:12:45-56)

## Citing Indirect Sources

If you are citing information from a source that is quoted or paraphrased from another source, note this in your in-text citation using qtd. in (quoted in):

According to Huang, “a popular revolt was inevitable after the public exposure of widespread corruption” (qtd. in Xue et al. 16).

Although best practice is to track down the original source of the quotation, in some cases this may not be possible. Only include sources you have actually used in your works cited list; in the above example this would be Xue et al. (Huang’s original work was not used but is being cited indirectly).

## Quotations

### Short quotations

For quotations running four lines or less in your paper, keep the quotation in line with your text and enclose the text in double quotation marks. Quotes within quotes should be enclosed in single quotation marks. Your in-text citation should follow the quotation and come before any other punctuation.

### Long quotations

Quotations that run over four lines should be separated from your text by starting a new line and indenting all lines of the quotation one half inch from the left margin. You do not need to use double quotation marks for long quotations. Punctuation at the end of a long quotation is placed before the parentheses of the in-text citation.

## Works Cited - Examples

### BOOKS – Whole books

#### Print book with one author

Amato, Joseph A. *Everyday Life: How the Ordinary Became Extraordinary*. Reaktion Books, 2016.

#### Print book with two authors

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne, and Dina Gilio-Whitaker. *"All the Real Indians Died Off": And 20 other Myths about Native Americans*. Beacon Press, 2016.

#### Print book with three or more authors

Hart, Carl L. et al. *Drugs, Behaviour, and Society*. 2nd Canadian ed., McGraw Hill Ryerson, 2016.

#### Print book with an editor

D’arcens, Louise, editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Medievalism*. Cambridge UP, 2016.

#### Print book without author or editor

*Oxford Atlas of the World*. 15th ed., Oxford UP, 2008.

**Print book with corporate author**

Canadian Health Information Management Association. *Fundamentals of Health Information Management*. Canadian Healthcare Association, 2013.

**Print book with a translator**

Honjo, Tasuku. *Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy: From Serendipity to Cure*. Translated by Andrew Gonzalez, Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2021.

**Print Comic or Graphic Novel**

Yan, Gene Luen. *The Shadow Hero*. Illustrated by Sonny Liew, lettered by Janice Chiang, First Second, 2014.

**Print book in a second or subsequent edition**

McWhorter, Kathleen T. *Successful College Writing: Skills, Strategies, Learning Styles*. 6th ed., Bedford/St. Martins, 2015.

**Ebook from a library collection (e.g., ProQuest Ebook Central, Ebsco eBook Collection)**

Mikulec, Erin A. and Paul Chamness Miller. *Queering Classrooms: Personal Narratives and Educational Practices to Support LBGTQ Youth in Schools*. Information Age Publishing, 2016. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, [ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/langara-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4744492#](http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/langara-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4744492#).

**Ebook available online (Google Books, Hathi Trust, Project Gutenberg)**

Covington-Ward, Yolanda. *Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo*. Duke UP, 2016. *Hathi Trust Digital Library*, [babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=ku01.r2\\_100;view=1up;seq=4](http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=ku01.r2_100;view=1up;seq=4).

**Open Textbook**

Geography Open Textbook Collective. *British Columbia in a Global Context*. BCcampus, 2014, [opentextbc.ca/geography/](http://opentextbc.ca/geography/).

**Government publication**

*An Audit of the Management of Groundwater Resources in British Columbia*. Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, 2010.

**Government document with named author**

Hango, Darcy. "Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking among Internet Users Aged 15 to 29 in Canada." *Statistics Canada*, 19 Dec. 2016, [www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-/2016001/article/14693-eng.pdf](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-/2016001/article/14693-eng.pdf).

**Government document where the author is the publisher**

*The Opioid Crisis in Canada*. Canadian Public Health Association, 2016, [www.cpha.ca/uploads/policy/opioid-statement\\_e.pdf](http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/policy/opioid-statement_e.pdf).

**Dissertation or Theses**

Duncan, Whitney. *The Culture of Mental Health in a Changing Oaxaca*. 2012. University of California, PhD dissertation. *eScholarship*, [escholarship.org/uc/item/0wj4w34j](http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0wj4w34j).

## BOOKS – Parts of books

### Print book chapter or essay/short story/poem in an anthology or edited volume

Rossi, Aparecido Donizete. "The Gothic in Kate Chopin." *Kate Chopin in Context: New Approaches*, edited by Heather Ostman and Kate O'Donoghue, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, pp. 65-82.

Brant, Beth. "Coyote Learns a New Trick." *An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English*, edited by Daniel David Moses and Terry Goldie, Oxford UP, 1992, pp. 148-150.

### Literary criticism in a book (e.g., *Short Stories for Students*)

*NOTE: See pages 318-319 in the MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition Handbook regarding citing a source previously published in another source.*

#### Examples of literary criticism reprinted

##### From a Journal:

Walker, Warren S. "The Unresolved Conflict in 'The Garden Party.'" *Short Stories for Students*, edited by Ira Mark Milne, vol. 8, Gale, 2000, pp. 65-67. Originally published in *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 3, no. 4, 1957, pp. 354-358.

##### From a Book:

Hanson, Clare, and Andrew Gurr. "The Stories 1921-22: Sierre and Paris." *Short Stories for Students*, edited by Ira Mark Milne, vol. 8, Gale, 2000, pp. 63-65. Originally published in *Katherine Mansfield*, St. Martin's, 1981, pp. 95-139.

##### Example of original content

"The Garden Party: Historical Context." *Short Stories for Students*, edited by Ira Mark Milne, vol. 8, Gale, 2000. p. 55.

### Introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword in a print book

Gottlieb, Susannah Young-ah. Introduction. *Reflections on Literature and Culture*, by Hannah Arendt, Stanford UP, 2007, pp. xi-xxxi.

### A Play in a collection

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House. Four Major Plays*. Translated by James McFarlan, Oxford UP, 2008, pp. 1-88.

### Courseware

Haraway, Donna. "The Persistence of Vision." *FINA 2250: Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory*, edited by Lynn Ruscheinsky, Langara College, 2011, pp 60-67. Course Pack.

## ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

### Entry in a print encyclopedia, dictionary, or other reference work with an author

Zaidman, Laura M. "The Day of the Locust." *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*, edited by Frank N. Magill, rev. ed., vol. 1, Salem Press, 2015, p. 583.

**Entry in an online encyclopedia, dictionary or other reference source**

Stockdale, Nancy. "Foodways and Cultural Borrowing and Adaptation along the Silk Road." *Daily Life through History*, ABC-CLIO, 2017. [dailylife2.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1941842](http://dailylife2.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1941842).

**Entry in a print dictionary with no author**

"Larboard, N. and Adj." *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford UP, 2004, p. 861.

**ARTICLES****Journal article, print**

Dance, Ann. "Dikes, Ducks, and Dams: Environmental Change and the Politics of Reclamation at Creston Flats, 1882-2014." *BC Studies*, no. 184, 2015, pp. 11-44.

**Journal article, freely available online**

Young, India. "Culture v. Capital: The Rebecca Belmore Case." *Contemporaneity: Historical Presence in Visual Culture*, vol. 3, 2014, pp. 77-95, <https://doi.org/10.5195/contemp.2014.96>

*Note: it is preferable to use a DOI if available. Otherwise use a permalink or stable link.*

**Journal article, from a library database with a DOI**

Dalley, Hamish. "The Idea of 'Third Generation Nigerian Literature': Conceptualizing Historical Change and Territorial Affiliation in the Contemporary Nigerian Novel." *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 44, no. 4, 2013, pp. 15-34. *JSTOR*, [//doi.org/0.2979/reseafritelite.44.4.15](https://doi.org/0.2979/reseafritelite.44.4.15).

**Journal article, from a library database without a DOI**

Medak-Saltzman, Danika. "Transnational Indigenous Exchange: Rethinking Global Interactions of Indigenous Peoples at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition." *American Quarterly*, vol. 62, no. 3, 2010, pp. 591-615. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/40983421](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40983421).

**Magazine article, print**

Lum, Julia. "Monsters of the Urban Unconscious." *Canadian Art*, vol. 34, no. 1, spring 2017, pp. 71-77.

**Magazine article, online**

Parenti, Christian and James Davis. "Free Speech as Battleground." *Jacobin*, 1 Apr. 2017, [www.jacobinmag.com/2017/04/free-speech-charles-murray-campus-protest/](http://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/04/free-speech-charles-murray-campus-protest/).

**Magazine article, from library database**

Jeong, May. "The Patient War: What awaits Trump in Afghanistan." *Harper's Magazine*, vol. 334, no. 2001, Feb. 2017, pp. 51-59. *Canadian Business and Current Affairs*, [login.ezproxy.langara.bc.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1876741786?accountid=37673](http://login.ezproxy.langara.bc.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1876741786?accountid=37673).

**Newspaper article, print**

Gray, Jeff. "Toronto Eyes Vancouver's Vacancy Tax to Rein in Real Estate Speculation." *The Globe and Mail*, 31 Mar. 2017, p. A1.

### **Newspaper article, online**

Serna, Joseph. "California Snowpack is One of the Biggest Ever Recorded, and Now Poses a Flooding Risk." *Los Angeles Times*, 30 Mar. 2017, [www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sierra-nevada-snowpack-measurement-20170330-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sierra-nevada-snowpack-measurement-20170330-story.html).

### **Newspaper article, from library database**

Lamoureux, Kevin. "Indigenous Students Driving Innovation." *Winnipeg Free Press*, 30 Mar. 2017, A7. *Canadian Major Dailies*, [login.ezproxy.langara.bc.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1881900233?accountid=37673](http://login.ezproxy.langara.bc.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1881900233?accountid=37673).

## **IMAGES, VIDEOS, DVDS, SOUND RECORDINGS**

### **Work of visual art in a book or print source**

Lum, Ken. *Grace Chung Financial*. 2001, Vancouver Art Gallery. *Ken Lum*, edited by Grant Arnold, Douglas & McIntyre, 2011, p. 48.

### **Work of visual art in an online database (Artstor etc.)**

Fraser, Andrea and Allen McCollum. *May I Help You?* 1991, Franklin Furnace Archive. *Artstor*, [library.artstor.org/#/asset/AFURNACEIG\\_10313902951](http://library.artstor.org/#/asset/AFURNACEIG_10313902951).

### **Work of visual art found on the Web**

Warhol, Andy. *Marilyn Diptych*. 1962. *Tate Galleries*, [www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/warhol-marilyn-diptych-t03093](http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/warhol-marilyn-diptych-t03093).

### **Image found online, as part of web page or blog post**

McNally, Joe. Picture of *Micro Air Vehicle*. "Data Drones," by Stuart Thorton, 5 May 2014. *National Geographic*, [www.nationalgeographic.org/news/data-drones/](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/news/data-drones/).

### **Exhibition Wall Text or Panel**

Wall text for *A Rushing Sea of Undergrowth*, by Emily Carr. *Emily Carr: Into the Forest*, May 13-Dec. 13 2017, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.

### **Film, DVD, video**

*Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia*. Directed by Anthony F. Brown, Brownie Productions, 2004.

### **Streaming media from a library database (Kanopy, Criterion-on-demand)**

*Miss Representation*. Directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, The Representation Project, 2011. *Kanopy*, [www.kanopy.com/en/langara/video/128008](http://www.kanopy.com/en/langara/video/128008).

*Note: it is optional to include additional roles such as performers etc. if their participation is important to your research or the identification of the work.*

### **Streaming media from the web (YouTube etc.)**

"Why You Procrastinate Even When it Feels Bad." *YouTube*, uploaded by TED-Ed, 27 Oct. 2022, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWTNMzK9G4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWTNMzK9G4).

Robideau, Henri. "The Big Dig" *Vimeo*, uploaded by Frank Robideau, 23 Nov. 2016, [vimeo.com/192834324](http://vimeo.com/192834324).



**Music, recording**

Bush, Kate. "Running Up That Hill." *Hounds of Love*, EMI Records, 1985.

Jay, Abner. *Folk Song Stylist*. Mississippi Records, 2010.

**Music, Streaming**

Cyrus, Miley. "Flowers." *Endless Summer Vacation*, Columbia Records, 2023. *Spotify*,  
[open.spotify.com/track/0yLdNVWF3Srea0uzk55zFn](https://open.spotify.com/track/0yLdNVWF3Srea0uzk55zFn).

**Podcast**

Sterritt, Angela, host. "E2: War Zone." *Land Back*, CBC, 22 Nov. 2022, [www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/1341-landback/episode/15950220-e2-war-zone](http://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/1341-landback/episode/15950220-e2-war-zone).

**WEBSITES****Webpage with named author**

Colegate, Mat. "Two Intersecting Visions: Decadence." *The Comics Journal*, 23 Apr. 2014,  
[www.tcj.com/two-intersecting-visions-decadence/](http://www.tcj.com/two-intersecting-visions-decadence/).

**Webpage with no named author**

"MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications)." *Purdue Online Writing Lab*, 21 July 2022,  
[owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_electronic\\_sources.html](http://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html).

**Webpage with corporate author**

Province of British Columbia. "B.C.'s response to COVID-19." 2022,  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/response>.

**Wikipedia or other online reference source**

"Charlene Vickers." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Nov. 2016,  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlene\\_Vickers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlene_Vickers).

**OTHER SOURCES****Class Handout**

Milton, Elizabeth. "Digital Media Installation Resources." *FINA 2141: Digital Design I*, Langara College, Vancouver, 13 Feb. 2017. Class handout.

**Class Lecture**

Doe, Jane. Lecture. "Cat Behaviour". *BIOL 1250: The Science of Pets*, 5 Oct. 2022, Langara College.

**Personal interview (conducted by yourself)**

Davis, Wade. Interview. Conducted by John Smith, 5 Feb. 2017.