
MLA Citation

— 9 Ingredients to a Successful
Citation —

9 Core Elements in a Properly Cited Source

- Author
- Title
- Container
- Contributor(s)
- Version
- Number
- Publisher
- Publishing Date
- Location (where did you find the information? What page(s)? What website?)

Author

As in the past, you will begin by identifying the author of the works you will be citing. If there are multiple authors, list them in the same order they appear in the source.

Authors are cited as follows:

Last name, the rest of Name as appears in source followed by a period.

Example:




Ambrose, Stephen E.

What if there is More than One Author?

Two Authors? Place the authors in the order in which they appear on the source. Note that only the lead author's name is listed last name first; all additional authors are listed by their first name, middle initial if applicable, and then last name:

Example:

Shields, David, and Caleb Powell.



Three or more Authors? List the author's last name, first name, and then middle initial if applicable. Follow it with a comma, and then add et. al. in place of the additional authors. (et. al. means "and others")

Example:

Rogers, Stephen L., et. al.



Work by Someone Other Than the Author

When someone other than the author completes the work, such as an editor, producer, performer, or artist, always include the individual's role after the name:

Example:

Dun, Dennis, and Mark Turner, editors.



When citing works of entertainment, such as film or television, include the name and role of the person on whom you've focused:

Example:

Wayne, Bruce, performer.



Title: Book

Use full book title in italics followed by a period.

Example:

Sparks, Nicholas. *The Notebook*. Warner Books, 1996.



Title: Periodicals

In “quotations”, write the full title of the article followed by a period. Then add the full title of the periodical in italics, followed by a comma

Example:



Brown, Bob. “Y is for Yesterday.” *The School Library Journal*, January 2015, pp. 23-28.

Title: TV Episode

Write the title of the episode followed by a period, then in italics write the title of the series.

Title of the Episode. *Title of the Series*,

Example:



“Dunder, Mifflin, Infinity.” *The Office*, written by Michael Schur, season 4, episode 3, NBC, 2007.

Title: Website

Write the full title of the article followed by a period. Then add the full name of the website in italics, followed by a comma, then add the URL.

Example:

Basic Facts about Snakes. Defenders of Wildlife, <http://www.defenders.org/snakes/basic-facts>.

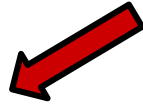


Title: Song

In “quotations”, write the full title of the song followed by a period. Then add the full title of the Album in italics, followed by a comma

“Title of Song.” *Album Name*,

Example:



Timberlake, Justin. “Can’t Stop the Feeling.” *Wild Things*, 2015.

Title: Untitled Source

If a source doesn't have a title, include the creator of the source and a brief description. **Do not italicize or place this information in quotation marks.**

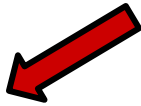
Format: Last Name, First Name. Title of the work. Year, Location of the Work, City, State.

Example:

Jackson, Percious. Painting of a Zeus. 1994, PS 86, Bronx, NY.

Title: Email

To cite an email, list the information in this order: Sender Last Name, Sender First Name. "Subject of the Email." Receiver First Name and Last Name, Date Sent. E-mail.



Example:

"Brazilian Bestie!" Message to the author. 21 June 2016. E-mail.

Container

Sometimes a source is part of a larger whole. For example, a TV Episode is part of a series. For citation purposes, we call the larger whole, in this case the series, a container. When citing sources with only one container, the title of the direct source is placed in quotes, and the title of the container is italicized.

Example:

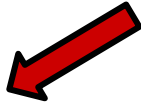


"Family First." *NCIS*. CBS, season 13, episode 24, 2016.

Contributor

In addition to authors, there may be other contributors who are important to include in the citation, especially if their individual work was important to your assignment. To correctly cite the contributions of these individuals, make sure you state their specific role, followed by the word “by” and then add their first and last name. Some common roles: edited by; translated by; directed by; performance by...

Example:

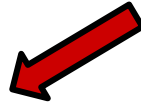


Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. Translated by Richard Howard, New York: Penguin, 2006.

Version

Some sources have version numbers. This happens most often with books, director's cuts of movies and radio edits of songs. When citing a specific version of a source: Always use the symbol for a number instead of spelling it out. For example, use 4th ed. and abbreviate ed. for edition and rev. for revised.

Example:



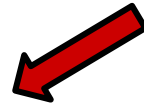
Wong, Jai and Jodi Patrick Holschuh. *Summer Rules!*, 3rd ed., One Gear Press, 2001.

Numbers

Some sources are numbered, like episodes of television shows, volumes of books and journals, and issue numbers. When including numbered sources, remember: Journal issues are often given a volume and issue number. Always abbreviate volume to vol. and number to no..

Example:

“Treehouse.” *Modern Family*, created by Steven Levitan and Christopher Lloyd, season 3, episode 7, 20th Century Fox, 2 Nov. 2011.



Publisher

The publisher is the name of the organization or company responsible for making the work available.

Include only the name of publishers and omit business words. The business words are usually found directly after the name of the publisher. This includes words such as company, corporation, limited, and others. (Example: Use Dream Books NOT Dream Books Company, LLC.)

Use UP for University Press (Example: Use Cambridge UP NOT Cambridge University Press)

Example:



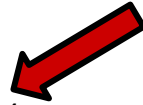
Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*, Harper & Row, 1964.

Publishing Date

The publication date refers to the date that the source was made available. When formatting sources with publication dates, keep the following in mind: When there is more than one publication date, use the one that is most relevant to your research. Include the date as it is shown on the source.

Example:

Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*, Harper & Row, 1964.




Location

To ensure your readers can locate your cited sources, provide the precise location within a source from which you took your information. The way this information is included in a citation differs by source:


For Print Resources: Include any page ranges to help readers locate the specific information themselves. place 'p.' prior to the page number; For a range of pages, use "pp." prior to the page numbers.

Example:

Bard, Brent L. "Understanding Childhood." *The Art of Living*, edited by Lisa M. Scott, ACPA-College Student/Stylus, 2013, pp. 67-80. 

For Websites include the URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number.

Example:

Bui, Hoang. "How to Get Financial Freedom When You Can't Increase Your Salary." *Elite Daily*, Mar. 30, 2016, elitedaily.com/money/financial-freedom-increase-salary/1375196/. 

Sample Works Cited Page

Works Cited

- Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. Print.
- "Brazilian Bestie!" Message to the author. 21 June 2016. E-mail.
- Korsh, Aaron "Tick- Tock." *Suits*. 24 Feb. 2016. Television. Transcript. Season 5, Episode 15
- Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Print.
- Newsboys. *Guilty*. Rec. 34 Mar. 2016. Mark Needham, 2016. CD.
- Super Mario Bros.wii. Nintendo of America. 2009. Video game.
- Udvardy, Miklos D. F., John Farrand, and Miklos D. F. Udvardy. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds*. New York: Knopf, 1994. Print.
- Wars, Star, and R. A. Salvatore. *Attack of the Clones*. New York: Ballantine, 2002. Print.

In Text Citations

When you quote or paraphrase your sources within the body of your written work, you need to give them credit. After the sentence, quote, or paraphrased information add the first word as it appears in the full citation and specific page number(s). Use “p.” For single page or “pp.” For multiple pages.

Example:

When Clark encountered and killed his first grizzly bear, Lewis journalled, “a most tremendous looking animal, extremely hard to kill...” (Ambrose p.219)

Yes, Meriwether Lewis was a terrible speller. If the quote was long and/or spanned multiple pages then the citation would be altered to include all the pages. (Ambrose pp. 219-231)