MLA CITATION STYLE

This handout is based on the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook, which is available in print at each campus library, call number LB 2369 M57 2016. For additional details on the new MLA style, check out the MLA Style Center at: https://style.mla.org/

All entries in a Works Cited list are based on nine core elements that appear in the following order and with the punctuation mark shown:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Note: You may not have all core elements for a source you are using. However, elements necessary to find a source must be included if available; missing elements (with exception of the title) are omitted. You may also add other elements for clarification (see example Foreword on p. 8 of this handout).

The nine core elements in more detail:

1. Author(s).

For one author, list the author’s last name, followed by a comma and the given name(s) as shown in the work. Example:

Creese, Gillian Laura.
McMahan, David L.

For two authors, put them in the order in which they appear in the work. Begin the entry with the last name of the first author, followed by a comma and the given name(s). Follow this with a comma, the word and, and then write the second name in normal order. Example:

Tellis, Gerard J., and Tim Ambler.

For more than two authors, list the first author as described above, and follow it with a comma and the words et al. (meaning "and others"). Example:

Gilbert, David G., et al.

Note: the term author is used loosely. It refers to any main person(s) of a source: editor(s), creator(s), director(s), performer(s), translator(s), etc. Add the respective word after the name(s). Example:

Green, William A., and Tom B. Moss, editors.
2. Title of source.

Titles are given in full as they appear in the source. If there is a subtitle, it follows after the main title, separated by a colon and a space. Capitalize the first word of the title and subtitle and all principal words (for more details on capitalization and punctuation see MLA 1.2.1).

*Italicize titles* of sources that are independent and self-contained, such as books, journals/magazines/newspapers, websites, movies, a TV series, a CD, etc. Example (book):


Place the “title in quotation marks” if a source is part of a larger work, such as a chapter in a collection of works, an article in a journal/magazine/newspaper, a posting on a website, an episode of a TV series, a song on an album, etc. For emails, use the subject line as the title, for short untitled messages (tweets, etc.), use the whole message as the title. Example (article):


If there is no title, give a generic description of the source in normal typescript (i.e. neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks).

3. Title of container,

A source may be part of a larger whole, in which case this larger whole is a container. For example, an article as part of a journal. The title of the container is italicized.


A container can also be nested in another container. For example, an article is contained in a journal (like *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies*), and the journal is contained in a database by a certain provider (like Proquest). If you have more than one container, add core elements 3-9 to the end of the initial entry (core elements 1-9) to account for the additional container. Example:

4. Other contributors,

This refers to other people who were involved with the work in addition to the author/main person(s), such as a director, an editor, an illustrator, a narrator, performer, translator, etc. Include the one(s) most relevant to your project. Precede the contributor(s) with a description of the role, such as: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, narrated by, performed by, translated by, general editor. Examples:


“The Door.” *Game of Thrones*, created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, season 6, episode 5, HBO, 26 May 2016.

5. Version,

If a source indicates that it is a different version from the original, identify the version, such as: revised edition (shorten to rev. ed.), 8th edition (shorten to 8th ed.), unabridged version, director's cut, version 1.2, etc. Example:


6. Number,

A source may be part of a numbered sequence. This core element refers to volume numbers in books, volume and issue numbers in journals, seasons and episodes in television series, etc. Example:


“The Door.” *Game of Thrones*, created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, season 6, episode 5, HBO, 26 May 2016.
7. Publisher,

The publisher is the organization responsible for making the source available to the public. Cite only the main publisher, but if two or more organizations are equally responsible for publication, cite each of them, separating the names with a forward slash /. Write publishers’ names in full, but omit words like Company (Co.), Corporation (Corp.), Incorporated (Inc.), and Limited (Ltd.). For academic institutions, abbreviate university with U and press with P.


“The Door.” *Game of Thrones*, created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, season 6, episode 5, HBO, 26 May 2016.


8. Publication date,

Generally, give the date as detailed as given in your source (for example, give the exact date and time a blog comment was posted). If a source shows more than one date, cite the most relevant one.

9. Location.

The location of your source depends on the medium of publication. In print sources, it is generally a page number/range of page numbers. In an online only source it is the DOI or URL. In a nested container, you may have two locations (one per container). Copy URLs in full, but omit http:// or https://


Optional elements

Other elements that may be added to a citation are optional, such as year of original publication, city of publication for specific item, total number of volumes, title of a series, a descriptive term for an unexpected type of work (e.g. a lecture), the date of access for online works (see MLA pp. 50-53).
### Example – Basic book elements, print and online

| 1. Author. | Creese, Gillian Laura. |
| 3. *Title of container,* | University of Toronto Press |
| 4. Other contributors, | 2011 |
| 5. Version, | |
| 6. Number, | |
| 7. Publisher, | |
| 8. Publication date, | |
| 9. Location. | |


*In text:* … (Creese 25)  … (FayJay, ch. 3)

| 3. *Title of container,* | Sage |
| 4. Other contributors, | 2009 |
| 5. Version, | |
| 6. Number, | |
| 7. Publisher, | |
| 8. Publication date, | |
| 9. Location. | |


*In text:* … (Tellis and Ambler 33)  … (Brooker, ch. 6, sec. 2)
EXAMPLE – Book, multiple editors, edition, volume

2. Title of source. The Norton Anthology of Western Literature
3. Title of container, 9th ed.
4. Other contributors, vol. 1
5. Version, W. W. Norton
6. Number, 2014
7. Publisher, 2014
8. Publication date, 2011


In text: … (Puchner et al. 58) … (Bumsted 2:58)

Note: if you borrow from one specific volume, follow example one, if you borrow from more than one volume, follow example two.

EXAMPLE – Book, organization as author

1. Author. Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. Title of source. Improving the Health of Canadians:
3. Title of container, Exploring Positive Mental Health.
4. Other contributors, Canadian Institute for Health Information
5. Version, 2009
6. Number, 2009
7. Publisher, 2009
8. Publication date, 2009
9. Location. pp. 519-526


In text: … (Improving 15) … (British Columbia 523)

Note: If the publisher is also the author, omit the author position altogether (as in example one)
EXAMPLE – Book chapter


*In text:* … (Brooks 30)

EXAMPLE – Reference book entry


*In text:* … (Howell) … (Marsh)
EXAMPLE – Book introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword

1. Author. Ladd, Edmund J.
3. *Title of container,* The Zuni Enigma
4. Other contributors, by Nancy Yaw Davis
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, Norton
8. Publication date, 2000
9. Location. p. xxi


*In text:* … (Ladd xxi)

*Note:* the descriptive word (Foreword, Preface…) is added after the title, if there is one; otherwise after the author or by itself.

EXAMPLE – Literary works (novels, verse plays, poems)

3. *Title of container,* Origami Dove
4. Other contributors, Translated by Jessie Coulson, edited by George Gibian, Edited by Russ McDonald
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, Norton, Penguin, McClelland & Stewart
9. Location. pp. 16-17


*In text:* … (Dostoevsky 20; pt. 1, ch. 1) … (Shakespeare 2.1.82-85) … (Musgrave 16)

*Note:* For a prose work available in several editions, provide the page number plus additional information in your in text reference (e.g.: chapter, part, or scene number - as in the 1st example). For verse plays and poems with line numbering, omit page numbers, but cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating the various numbers (as in the 2nd example). If there are no divisions, but only line numbers, use this format: (lines 12-15). If no line numbering is given, then use page numbers or a division, whichever is available.
### EXAMPLE – Periodical article

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container One</th>
<th>Container Two: Add if retrieved from a database</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example – in Print</td>
<td>Example - From a Database, no DOI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example - From the Internet</td>
<td>Example-From a Database, with DOI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Author.** Frideres, James.
2. **Title of source.** “Aboriginal Identity in the Canadian Context.”
3. **Title of container,** *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies*
4. **Version,** vol. 28, no. 2
5. **Number,** 2008
6. **Publisher,** www3.brandonu.ca/library/CJNS/28.2/05Frideres.pdf
7. **Publication date,** 2008
8. **Location.** pp. 313-342
9. **Other contributors,**
   - Frideres, James, and Marie Dalhouse.
10. **Title of source.** “Intergenerational Congruency: The Role of the Family in the Political Attitudes of Youth.”
11. **Title of container,** *Journal of Family Issues*
12. **Version,** vol. 17, no. 2
13. **Number,** 1996
14. **Publisher,** doi:10.1177/019251396017002005
15. **Publication date,** 1996
16. **Location.** pp. 227-248
17. **Other contributors,**
   - Frideres, James, and Marie Dalhouse.
18. **Title of source.** “Intergenerational Congruency: The Role of the Family in the Political Attitudes of Youth.”
19. **Title of container,** *Journal of Family Issues*
20. **Version,** vol. 17, no. 2
21. **Number,** 1996
22. **Publisher,** doi:10.1177/019251396017002005
23. **Publication date,** 1996
24. **Location.** pp. 227-248

**In text:** … (Frideres 322) … if no page numbers available: … (Frideres) … (Frideres and Dalhouse 230)

**Note:** always use the DOI if available. For URLs, do not include http:// or KPU’s ezproxy prefix. If an article is available only online, the DOI or URL are sufficient and no page numbers are necessary. Use the publication as given (e.g. month/season/day). Months that are longer than four letters are abbreviated. If an article is not printed on consecutive pages (e.g.: it starts on page F1, but continues on page F13), write only the first page number, followed by a plus sign (i.e. F1+).
**EXAMPLE – Audiovisual Media (Songs, SoundCloud and CD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container One</th>
<th>Container Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Author.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good for Grapes. Blake, Norman.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Title of source.</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Skipping Stone.” O Brother Where Art Thou?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Title of container,</strong></td>
<td><strong>written by Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Other contributors,</strong></td>
<td><strong>Man on the Page</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Version,</strong></td>
<td><strong>SoundCloud</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Number,</strong></td>
<td>soundcloud.com/good-for-grapes/skipping-stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Publisher,</strong></td>
<td><strong>Blake, Norman.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Publication date,</strong></td>
<td><strong>“You Are My Sunshine.”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. Location.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercury</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2 Apr. 2002</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*In text:* … (Good for Grapes 1:30-50) … (Blake 0:50-1:05)

**EXAMPLE – Audiovisual Media (TV Series, on HBO and DVD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container One</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Author.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Title of source.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Title of container,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Other contributors,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Version,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Number,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Publisher,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Publication date,</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. Location.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Container Two</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“The Door.” Game of Thrones</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, directed by Jack Bender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>season 6, episode 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The Door.” *Game of Thrones*, created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, directed by Jack Bender, season 6, episode 5, HBO, 26 May 2016.


*In text:* … (“The Door” 18:22-21:30) … (“The Wars” 33:05-38:55)
EXAMPLE – Audiovisual Media (Streaming video on YouTube and from a library database)

1. Author.
2. Title of source. “Tom Brokaw Explains Canada to Americans.”
3. Title of container, YouTube
4. Other contributors, uploaded by Fred Hodgins
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date, 25 Feb. 2010
9. Location. www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrA4V6YF6SA


In text: … (“Tom Brokaw” 3:26-4:13) … (Mabel 5:35)

EXAMPLE – Works Only on the Web (e.g. Webpage)

1. Author.
2. Title of source. “KPU Grads Hold Their Own in Academia.”
3. Title of container, Newsroom
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date, 2 July 2016


In text: … (“KPU Grads”)
### Various Other Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal Interviews and Letters</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*In text: example: Frank Johnson holds the view that …; in her letter, Garner points out …*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Emails and Tweets</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanderson, William M. “Re: Workshop Ideas.” Received by Miriam Willis, 10 June 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@KPULibrary. “New study out of Yale: People who #read live longer.” Twitter, 8 Aug. 2016, 1:19 p.m., twitter.com/KPULibrary/status/762744957492867072.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In text: …(Sanderson) … (@KPULibrary)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lectures, Speeches, Addresses</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christensen, Erling. SOCI 1125. 18 May 2012, Kwantlen Polytechnic U, Surrey. Lecture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In text: … (Cresse) … (Christensen)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Class Handouts</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLA does not give specifics about citing these materials. <strong>PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS ON THEIR PREFERENCE FOR CITING THESE MATERIALS.</strong> We suggest the following format:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In text: … (Pederson)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Custom course materials</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLA does not give specifics about citing these materials. Therefore, <strong>PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS ON THEIR PREFERENCE FOR CITING THESE MATERIALS.</strong> We suggest to either find the full citation information of the item and cite as usual OR treat the course package as an anthology, like this:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In text: … (Sherry 68)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Citing a Citation</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*In text: According to Denton et al. (qtd. in Beaujot and Kerr 98) …*

*Note: In this example, the original study is by Denton et al., but you read about it in a book by Beaujot and Kerr.*