MLA 8TH EDITION
— AN ALL-PURPOSE APPROACH
Presenter: Fabio Montella
About Me

- Assistant Professor of Library Services at Suffolk County Community College.
- Many classes at SCCC ask for MLA format.
- Been working in academic libraries for the past 8 years.
- I have a MA in History from SBU (Done completely in MLA format)
What’s New in the Eighth Edition

The eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*, published in 2016, rethinks documentation for an era of digital publication. The MLA now recommends a universal set of guidelines that writers can apply to any source and gives writers in all fields—from the sciences to the humanities—the tools to intuitively document sources. Learn more below about the changes to MLA guidelines. Get resources for teaching, an FAQ, tips on writing, and more on The MLA Style Center.

The List of Works Cited

The eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook* introduces a new model for entries in the works-cited list, one that reflects recent changes in how works are published and consulted. Previously, a writer created an entry by following the MLA’s instructions for the source’s publication format (book, DVD, Web page, etc.). That approach has become impractical today, since publication formats are often combined (a song listened to online, for example, could have been taken from a record album released decades ago) or are undefinable.

In the new model, the work’s publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, “How do I cite a book [or DVD or Web page]?”, the writer creates an entry by consulting the MLA’s list of core elements—facts common to most works—which are assembled in a specific order. The MLA core elements appear below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MLA Core Elements</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of source.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of container,</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grisham, John.
* Three or more authors, et al

Leggatt, Alexander, editor.
Or
Creaser, John.

Alexander, Jason, performer.
Or
Cherones, Tom, director.

Barrymore, Drew, performer.
Or
Spielberg, Steven, director.
Calico Joe.

The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearean Comedy. Or “Forms of Confusion.”

Seinfeld. Or “The Bizarro Jerry.”

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial.
Title of container,
Container Alert!

Often confused with ‘publisher’.

YouTube  WordPress  vimeo  Google Sites
Other contributors,

Translated by Lucia Graves,

Edited by Alexander Leggatt,

Performance by Constantino Mastroprimiano,

Directed by Steven Spielberg,
Version,

King James Version,

Director’s Cut,

Unabridged version,

Seventh edition,
Website Publishers

• Website organization is most often the publisher. If this is the case, there is no need to include the publisher.

• Use “About us” to find a publisher.

• Use “Contact us” to find a publisher.

• [https://whois.icann.org/en](https://whois.icann.org/en)

• Do some detective work

• When all else fails….give up!
Publication Date

• Day/Month/Year:
  
  Example: 21 June 2010

• Abbreviate months with names longer than four letters:


• If a season is given instead of a month, include the season:

  Winter 2009

• For online content, use the date that the material was posted.

• Publication date ends with a comma, unless it is the final element in an entry.

• “When a source carries more than one date, cite the date that is most meaningful or most relevant to your use of the source.” *MLA Handbook*
*If your source is a container (e.g. edited book or anthology) provide the specific page number or range of page numbers of the source within that container.
### Optional Elements…They’re Optional!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Original Publication</th>
<th>City of Publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franklin, Benjamin</td>
<td>London, 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Emigration to America.”</td>
<td>(in place of pub. name)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Volumes</th>
<th>Date accessed, especially if work has no date of publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Other Optional Elements:

1. Work is part of a series (Harry Potter series).
2. Unexpected type of work, such as a radio interview that has been transcribed (Transcript).
3. Lecture or address heard in person (Address).
4. Information about a prior publication (Originally published in...)
Additional Rules:

• Three or more authors, et al.
• Pseudonyms are accepted (ex. @WSJ)
• Contributor roles (editor, translator, etc.) are now spelled out.
• Descriptors of numbers (volume, number, page) that were omitted entirely in MLA 7 are included in abbreviated form in MLA 8 (ex. 47.1 vs vol. 47, no. 1)
• Medium of Publication (e.g. “Print, “Web”) is not required, but an eBooks editions is treated as a “Version” of a text.
• URLs do not contain http:// and do not use angle brackets around the link.
• Do not include publishers for journals, magazines, newspapers, or a website when the name of the website is the same as the publisher (ex. ESPN)
• Some website act as containers and not publishers (ex. YouTube and WordPress).
• City of publication is no longer required.
• Medium is no longer required (ex. DVD or Print Book).
MLA 8 Core Elements:

- *Title gets italicized*
- *Container gets italicized*

*If there is a container, “Title of source” goes in quotations*
In-text citation: Basic
I’m really interested in designing video games to teach children math skills so I found the author’s ideas on this topic very helpful (Maigaard 274).

In-text citation: No author
It’s encouraging to me that companies are interested in recruiting young people who have a passion for video games (“Exciting Careers” 4).

In-text citation: No page number
I’m pleased to see that the “Pay” section states that the median annual pay for animators is over $63,000 (United States Department of Labor).

Works Cited


Example:

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Works Cited


In-text is an indicator that what I just read...

- Was researched
- Used by you for veracity or build/strengthen an argument.
- Allows a reader to access your source.
MLA 8 In-Text Citations:

• Author-page style

• “Poetry is mostly subjective but has certain elements of proper construction” (Smith 23).

• According to Smith, “poetry is mostly subjective but has certain elements of proper construction” (23).
MLA 8 In-Text Citations:

• **Additional rules**
  - Two authors (Smith and Dolan 23).
  - Three or more authors (Smith et al. 23).
  - Same last name (T. Smith 23)
  - Same last name, same letter of first name (Tom Smith 23)
  - Same last and first name (Smith, “Poetry” 23).
  - No author (Poetry 23)
  - No author, similar titles (Poetry at Risk 23).
MLA 8 In-Text Citations:

• Additional rules
  • Paragraph numbers instead of page numbers (Smith, par. 14).
  • No page or paragraph numbers (Smith).
  • Multiple volumes (Smith 23; vol.3, ch.12)
  • Media (“Buffy” 00:03:12-14).
MLA 8 In-Text Citations:

• **Indirect source:**

Citing indirect sources

Sometimes you may have to use an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted. For example:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don’t do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Note that, in most cases, a responsible researcher will attempt to find the original source, rather than citing an indirect source.

*From Purdue Online Writing Lab (Owl), Purdue University.*
MLA 8 Practice Templates

Interactive Practice Template
To build a works cited list entry, enter the elements present in your source into the template. You must include any necessary punctuation, capitalization, and italics. The entry will appear under "Your Citation," unless it is corrigible to the template.

The template is not for teaching and learning MLA style, but a citation generator. To verify that your entry is correct, consult the MLA Handbook.

You can also download the template as a PDF.

MLA Practice Template

Author.
Title of source.
Title of container.
Other contributor.
Version.
Number.
Publisher.
Publication date.
Location.

Add a source.

KEY

MLA Handbook,
8th edition

MLA Practice Template (PDF)

Get MLA News from The Source
Let’s Practice

- Apple and Fitbit
- The Office
- Elena Ferrante
- Climate Change
Why do we cite?

“So we don’t plagiarize”
Why should we avoid plagiarism??

“Because it’s cheating.”

“You’re not giving credit to the author.”
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

Kinda stupid
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

Kinda stupid

Waste of time
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

- Kinda stupid
- Waste of time
- It slows me down
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

- Kinda stupid
- Waste of time
- It slows me down
- Authors are too sensitive
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

- Kinda stupid
- Waste of time
- It’s the teachers who ask too much from citations.
- It slows me down
- Authors are too sensitive
How do you feel about giving credit to an author?

- Kinda stupid
- Waste of time
- It’s the teachers who ask too much from citations.
- It slows me down
- Authors are too sensitive
- That’s why the information is there, so I can use it!
If you think about it, it’s not really cheating. I can recite everything that’s written in my textbook tonight at dinner and not be penalized.
Students see citing as petty and insignificant (stupid, waste of time, etc.). They do not see the value of information.

Academic dishonesty for cheating, yes, but also because we’re taking something of value. We need to attribute.
Photo Credit?
Examples of Value:

- Monetary (cars, home, iPhones)
- Personal (Photos, blogs, recipes)
- Intellectual (Original research, short story)
- Monetary, personal, and intellectual (Patent or copyright)
It's their choice, but our responsibility to educate them.
"If you think about it, it’s not really cheating. I can recite everything that’s written in my textbook tonight at dinner and not be penalized."
Scholarship as a Conversation
Dinner Talk

Who is the authority in this context?

How is this information produced, and what do we do with it?
Scholarly Dialogue

Who is the authority in this context?

How is this information produced, and what do we do with it?

Scholars are taking something of value and using it for academic purposes. Students are part of that scholarly conversation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What has value?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Recipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Joke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who is it valuable to?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You!

Email: Montelf@sunysuffolk.edu