# Citing Sources in MLA Style: 9th Edition

American River College Library, Updated 3/8/2022

While the ARC Library provides information on MLA and APA citation styles in order to support students, we support focusing on the goals of citation (acknowledging, and leading the reader to, sources) rather than on the mechanics. A number of [readings](https://researchguides.flc.losrios.edu/citethis) have influenced our thinking. In particular, we are given pause by the work of Dr. Asao B. Inoue, who discusses the racial and class concerns associated with grading student work by how closely it approximates a particular style. We invite you to consider with us the costs and benefits of requiring that students produce “proper” or “error-free” citations.

This is a brief overview of Modern Language Association (MLA) style. For more information, see:

* *MLA Handbook* (available at the Library’s Research Help Desk)
* [ARC Library Citation Help webpage](https://arc.losrios.edu/student-resources/library/research/citation-help): https://arc.losrios.edu/student-resources/library/research/citation-help

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## MLA BASICS

In academic writing, when you include information or ideas that aren’t your own you must say where the information came from. This is called “citing your sources.” You must cite whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or directly quote from an outside source, and when you provide a fact that is not considered “common knowledge.” MLA Style is a set of guidelines for how to cite your sources and format your paper.

There are two parts to citing in MLA:

### In-Text Citations

Are a brief indication in the text of your paper that the information comes from an outside source. Typically, in-text citations include the last name of the author and the page number (if available) on which the information was found. If there is no page number, leave it out. If there is no author, use the title instead. Place the citation where there is a natural pause in the text, such as at the end of a sentence. Example:

Integrating examples of resistance into curriculum can help students learn resistance strategies (Love 111).

***See page 8 “*IN-TEXT CITATIONS*” for more details and examples.***

### List of Works Cited

Goes at the end of your paper and provides an alphabetized list of every source you cited in the text. Each entry must include certain key pieces of information, such as the author, title, and publisher, so that your readers can find your sources. Example:

Love, Bettina L. *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom.* Beacon Press, 2019.

*Format****:*** On a new page at the end of your paper, center the title Works Cited. Leave a space between the title and first entry. List entries alphabetically by authors’ last names or if author is unknown, by title. Start each entry at the left margin. Use “hanging indentation,” which means after the first line of each entry, you indent subsequent lines by ½ inch.

***See pages 9-10 for more formatting details and an example works cited page.***

## MLA CITATION TEMPLATE

In the current version of MLA, citations for all types of sources follow one template:

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Source*.*” *Title of Container,* Contributors, Version, number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

Follow the order and punctuation outlined in the example above and the chart below but use only the elements that apply to your specific source – for example, if your source has no author, no specific version, and there are no “other contributors” you wish to include, just leave those elements out.

| **ELEMENT** | **WHAT GOES HERE** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Author.
 | Name(s) of the person(s) who wrote, created, or edited the source. * **No author:** Begin the entry with the title
* **One author or editor:** Garcia, Mercedes L. | Sokolov, Antonin, editor.
* **Two authors or editors:** Nguyen, Lilly L., and John P. McDowell.
* **Three or more authors or editors:** Gupta, Sanjay et al. | Ells, Kate et al., editors.
 |
| 1. Title of source.
 | The title of the source. If there is no title, provide a concise description of the work. Titles of self-contained sources, such as films and books, should be italicized. Sources that are part of a larger whole, such as one chapter of an edited book, should be put in quotation marks.  |
| 1. *Title of container,*
 | Include the “container” element when a source is part of a larger whole. For example, an episode of a TV series, or an article in a magazine – the TV series and magazine are “containers.” Titles of containers should be italicized. |
| 1. Contributors,
 | Provide the names of contributors who are important to how you’re using the source and describe their roles.**Examples: directed by, illustrated by, introduction by, performance by, translated by**  |
| 1. Version,
 | If the source is a specific version or edition, list it here. **Example: 7th edition**  |
| 1. number,
 | If the source is part of a numbered sequence, list the number here. **Examples: vol. 112, no. 2 | season 1, episode 3 | vol. 4** **| vols. 2-3** |
| 1. Publisher,
 | List the organization primarily responsible for creating the source. For example, a book publisher or sponsoring organization of a website. For websites, you do not need to list a publisher if its name is essentially the same as the title.  |
| 1. Publication date,
 | Date format depends on information available; use Day Month Year format when all three are known. Abbreviate all months except May, June, & July. **Examples: 28 Oct. 2020 | Jan.-Feb. 2016 | 2022** |
| 1. Location.
 | Where the information can be found. Examples: page numbers of an article or the URL of a website. Use DOIs, “permalinks” or stable URLs when available. Some sources, such as print books, do not require locations. |
| Container 2: Repeat elements 3-9 as applicable | Sometimes sources are “nested” within more than one container. For example, an article may be published in a journal, which is itself housed in a library database such as JSTOR. Both the journal and the database are containers. If there is a second container, list elements 3-9 as applicable, following the same order, punctuation, and instructions as the elements above.  |

You have the flexibility to emphasize the elements that are important to how you’re using a source. For example, you could choose to cite an entire film, or to cite a specific actor’s performance, or to cite the work of the cinematographer. Therefore, there could be more than one correct way to cite any given source.

## CITATION EXAMPLES: PRINT SOURCES

### BASIC FORMAT FOR A PRINT BOOK

Author(s). *Title of Book.* Contributors (if applicable), Version (if applicable), number (if applicable), Publisher, Publication date.

#### Book with One Author

Baldwin, Caspar J. *Not Just a Tomboy: A Trans Masculine Memoir.* Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2019.

#### Book with One Editor

Yancy, George, editor. *Cornel West: A Critical Reader.* Blackwell, 2001.

#### Book with Two Authors

Richardson, Justin, and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three.* Illustrated by Henry Cole, 1st ed., Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

#### Book with Three Authors

Bush, Shane S., et al. *Ethical Practice in Geropsychology.* American Psychological Association, 2017.

### BASIC FORMAT FOR A WORK IN AN EDITED COLLECTION OR ANTHOLOGY

Author(s). “Title of Chapter or Article.” *Title of Container (Title of Collection or Anthology)*, edited by Editor’s name, Version (if applicable), volume number (if applicable), Publisher, year,page numbers for the chapter or work.

#### Work in an Anthology

Yamada, Mitsuye. “Invisibility Is an Unnatural Disaster: Reflections of an Asian American Woman.” *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color,* edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa , 4th edition, State U of New York P, 2015, pp. 30-35.

## SOURCES FROM LIBRARY DATABASES

Library databases generate automated citations. **The generated citations will usually deviate from MLA style**. Deviations from MLA style may occur anywhere in the citation and are frequently found in capitalization, spacing, indentation, omitting the database as the second container, and including the publisher (unnecessary for periodicals).

**Instructors:**

Please consider whether the citations the databases create are adequate. They may not conform perfectly to MLA style, but they accomplish the goals of acknowledging the source and leading the reader to the source. The benefits of crafting perfect MLA citations are minimal, but the costs in terms of time and labor, which might be better allocated elsewhere, can be high.

**Students:**

* If your instructor indicates that the citations the database creates are adequate, copy and paste the citation that the database creates. That’s it :)
* If your instructor indicates that your citations must conform to MLA style, copy and paste the citation, then edit as necessary using the info below. Consulting the *MLA Handbook* and/or asking a librarian for help are also good options :)

**In OneSearch, to have the database create a citation, click on the word “citation.”** In other databases, look for the words “Cite Now” or “Cite.”



### BASIC FORMAT FOR AN ARTICLE FROM A LIBRARY DATABASE

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of the Article*.*” *The Title of the Periodical (Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper) in which the Article was Published*, number, Publication Date, Pages. *The Name of the Database*, The DOI or Permalink.

* MLA dictates citing the DOI if available. Precede the DOI with https://doi.org/. If you need to find the article again, the permalink is far more useful than the DOI, so if your instructor permits deviation from MLA Style, consider using the permalink instead of the DOI. If there’s no DOI, use the permalink. If no permalink is provided, copy and paste the URL, then remove the http:// or https://.

#### **FINDING THE ELEMENTS TO CREATE THE CITATION IN ONESEARCH**

Here’s how we’d find the info we needed if we were citing [“What does culturally relevant pedagogy mean in the community college context?”](https://caccl-lrccd.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CACCL_LRCCD/pja1dn/cdi_proquest_journals_2566179336) You’ll find the permalink by clicking on permalink in the “Send to” menu.



You’ll find the name of the database under “Available from.”



The rest of the info you need will be under “Details.” “Title” will provide the title of the article.



“Author/Creator” will provide the author(s).



“Source” provides the title of the periodical, the publication date, the number, and the page(s).



If there is a DOI, you’ll find it under “ISBN/ISSN."



### CITATION EXAMPLES: LIBRARY DATABASE SOURCES

#### Article from a Database with a Permalink

Kroll, Paul W. “Reflections on Recent Anthologies of Chinese Literature in Translation.” *Journal of Asian Studies,* vol. 61, no. 3, 2002, pp. 985-999. *JSTOR*. https://ezproxy.losrios.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsjsr&AN=edsjsr.10.2307.3096353&site=eds-live&scope=site.

#### Article from a Database with a DOI

Johnson, Phillip D. “Somebodiness and Its Meaning to African American Men.” *Journal of Counseling and Development*, vol. 94, no. 3, July 2016, pp. 333-343. *Wiley Online Library*, https://doi.org/10.1002/jcad.12089.

#### Newspaper Article from a Database

Filipas, Nicholas. “Help Wanted: Especially in Math, Science, Special Education.” *The Record [Stockton]*, 19 Jan. 2016. *Newspaper Source Plus*, https://ezproxy.losrios.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=n5h&AN=2W64270328142&site=eds-live&scope=site.

#### E-book

Farmer, Ashley D. *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*. U of North Carolina P, 2017. *EBSCO Academic eBook Collection*, https://caccl-lrccd.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CACCL\_LRCCD/pja1dn/cdi\_askewsholts\_vlebooks\_9781469634395.

#### CQ Researcher Article

Day, Kathleen. "Monopoly Power." *CQ Researcher*, vol. 31, no. 42, 3 Dec. 2021, pp. 1-30. *CQ Researcher*, library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2021120300.

#### Opposing Viewpoints Article

Deerinwater, Jen. "Indigenous Activists Urge Biden to Stop Pipelines." *Gale Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, 2021. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints, link.gale.com/apps/doc/VHILHR697690918/OVIC?u=sacr22807&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=a77b0daf.*

#### Gale eBooks

El Guindi, Fadwa."Hijab." *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion.* Edited by Valerie Steele, vol. 2, Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005, pp. 209-213. *Gale Virtual Reference Library.* http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3427500303/GVRL?u=sacr22807&sid=GVRL&xid=a17f1cc4.

#### Films on Demand

“The Story of India: Beginnings.” PBS, 2008. *Films on Demand*, Infobase, https://ezproxy.losrios.edu/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=240535&xtid=41060.

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## CITATION EXAMPLES: WEB SOURCES

### BASIC FORMAT FOR A WEBPAGE:

Author(s). “Title of Page or Article.” *Title of Website*, Version (if applicable), Number (if applicable), Publisher (omit if identical or nearly identical to title of website), Publication date (if applicable), URL (aka “location”). Date of access (optional but recommended if there is no publication date).

##### Webpage with an Author

Rosenhall, Laurel. “A New Campaign Aims to Educate Californians on Transgender Rights.” *Sacramento News & Review*, 1 Sept. 2016, www.newsreview.com/sacramento/new-campaign-aims-to/content?oid=21872733.

##### Webpage with no Author

“10 Things You Should Know About Corals.” *NOAA Fisheries*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2 Dec. 2015, www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/ 2015/12/12\_01\_2015\_corals\_the\_bottom\_line\_video.html.

##### Online Video (E.g. YouTube, TED Talk, etc.)

Simard, Suzanne. “How Trees Talk to Each Other.” *TED*, June 2016. www.ted.com/talks/suzanne\_simard\_how\_trees\_talk\_to\_each\_other.

## CITATION EXAMPLES: FILM & TELEVISION

There are multiple ways to cite a film or TV show depending on whether it was viewed as a television broadcast, online, through an app, or using physical media such as a DVD. Please see pp. 328 - 330 of the *MLA Handbook* for additional examples.

### Basic Format for a Film

*Title of Film.* Contributor and their role, Production company or distributor, Year of release.

#### Film

*Do the Right Thing*. Written and directed by Spike Lee, Forty Acres and a Mule Filmworks, 1989.

#### Film or TV Show Watched on a Streaming Service Such as Netflix, Hulu, etc.

“I, Borg.” *Star Trek the Next Generation,* created by Joss Whedon, season 5, episode 23, ABC Paramount Pictures, 1992. *Netflix*, [www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com).

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

In-text citations usually consist of the author’s last name and the page number(s) on which you found the information. However, you will sometimes need to vary from this, such as when there is no author or page numbers:

### One Author [or Editor]

(Author’s Last Name Page Number)

(Garcia 178)

### Two Authors

(Khoury and Takeda 56)

### Three or More Authors

(Silverstein et al. 304)

### No Author

(“Title of Entry” Page Number)

(“Polar Bears” 125)

It’s OK to shorten the title if it’s long

### No Page Numbers

(Author’s Last Name)

### (Nguyen)No Author or Page Numbers

(“Title of Entry”)

(“Climate Change Impacts”)

### Time-based source (Ex: video or TV show)

(“The Story of India” 00:09:25-36)

Give the hour, minutes, and seconds that contain the quote or information

### Source Quoted in Another Source

Murillo sees this approach as “altogether contrary to the public interest” (qtd. in Berkshire 52).

### Direct Quotations

If you use a direct quotation, it means you’re using someone’s exact words. Direct quotations should always go in quotation marks. Place the in-text citation after the closing quotation mark. Examples:

Austen contends that “happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance” (207).

One study found that regular meditation was “effective in enhancing [practitioners] psychological well-being by storing up high [emotional intelligence] and maintaining a positive attitude towards perceived stress” (Chu 177).

#### Block Quotation

**If the quote is more than four lines:** set the quotation off from the rest of the text by indenting the whole quotation ½ inch from the left margin. Do not include quotation marks. Place the parenthetical citation after the closing punctuation mark. Example:

Crying and tears play a significant role in *Like Water for Chocolate*:

Sometimes she would cry for no reason at all, like when Nacha chopped onions, but since they both knew the cause of those tears, they didn’t pay them much mind. They made them a source of entertainment, so that during her childhood Tita didn’t distinguish between tears of laughter and tears of sorrow. For her laughter was a form of crying. Likewise for Tita the joy of living was wrapped up in the delights of food. (Esquivel 5)

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Annotated bibliographies include citation information as well as brief descriptions, or “annotations,” for each source. Generally speaking, annotations summarize (What is the source about? What main points does the author make?) and evaluate (How useful is the source? Is the information reliable?). **Different instructors have different expectations about what annotations should contain and how long they should be. Follow your instructor’s guidelines**.

### Format

Annotated bibliographies should be formatted like a works cited list, with double spacing and hanging indentation. Create the citation, then begin the annotation on a new line, indented one inch from the beginning of the entry.

Simard, Suzanne. *How Trees Talk to Each Other.* *TED*, June 2016. www.ted.com/talks/suzanne\_simard\_how\_trees\_talk\_to\_each\_other.

In this TED talk, Dr. Simard discusses the ways in which trees are biologically interconnected, and how they share information about things like soil nutrients, water availability, and more. I can use this information in my paper as an example of nature’s…

## PAPER FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

MLA papers should be formatted as follows:

### Heading

In the top right header, type your last name and the page number. In the top left of the body of the paper, type your name, your instructor’s name, the course number, and the date on separate lines.

### Text

Use a readable font (e.g., Times New Roman) in a standard size (e.g., 12pt). Double space your entire paper, including the heading and list of works cited. Use 1” margins.

### Title

Center the title between the heading and the text; do not underline or italicize the title; do not add extra spaces between the heading and the title or the title and the text.

## FORMATTING IN MICROSOFT WORD AND GOOGLE DOCS

| **Formatting** | **Microsoft Word**Microsoft Word: Microsoft 365 Logo | **Google Docs****Google Docs icon** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Double Space | Line and Paragraph Spacing button under Paragraph menu | Line spacing button in Google Docs menu |
| Alphabetize | Sort option in the Paragraph section | Sorry, there isn’t a built-in way to alphabetize in Google Docs. ☹ |
| Last name & page number in top right | In Microsoft Word:1. Click “Insert” tab.
2. Click Page Number.
3. From “Top of Page” menu, choose “Plain number 3.”
4. Type your last name before the page number.
 | In Google Docs:1. Click “Insert”
2. Click “Page Number”
3. Choose the first option – with a 1 and a 2 on the first and second pages
4. Type your last name before the page number.
 |
| Hanging Indentation | In Microsoft Word:1. Highlight text to be indented.
2. In the “Home” tab, find the word “Paragraph.”
3. Click the small arrow to the right of the word “Paragraph.”
4. In the Indentation section, find the “Special” drop-down menu and choose “Hanging.”
 | In Google Docs: 1. Highlight citations you want to indent
2. Find the blue arrow on the left side of the ruler.
3. Use the bottom triangle to drag everything over by ½ inch. (To the bigger line between 0 and 1)
4. Use the top rectangle to drag the first line back to 0. First line indent (top rectangle) and left indent (bottom triangle) slider in Google Docs
 |

## SAMPLE PAPER

Ramos 1

Angelica Ramos

Professor Madaki

ENGWR 101

12 October 2019

***Add a header with your Last name & page number in top right.*** *Go to Insert > Page Number > Top of Page > Plain # 3 > Then type your last name*

Community Colleges Provide Access and Opportunity

America’s community colleges are foundational to our democracy and our economy. Community colleges provide access to higher education and job training for over 10 million students each year. In fact, in fall of 2014 over 40% of American undergraduates were enrolled in a community college (Bailey et al. 1). Morest notes that community colleges “represent a major success story in American higher education” (2). **Page #**

There are several reasons why community college is a smart choice for many students. First, students can save thousands of dollars by completing their first two years of general education at a community college; average annual in-state tuition at public community colleges was about $3,400 in 2015-2016, compared with about $9400 for public 4-year colleges (“Fast Facts”). Small class sizes are another great reason to consider community college – students have opportunities for individualized attention… (new page ↓)

***Alphabetize your works cited list.*** *Go to Home > AZ↓ (in “Paragraph” menu) > Sort by paragraphs*

Works Cited

Bailey et al. *Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success.* Harvard University Press, 2015.

“Fast Facts.” *American Association of Community Colleges*, Feb. 2016, http://www.aacc.nche.edu/AboutCC/Pages/fastfactsfactsheet.aspx.

Morest, Vanessa Smith. *Community College Student Success: From Boardrooms to Classrooms*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. 

***Use hanging Indentation for your citations.*** *Go to Home > Paragraph - Click arrow in bottom right > Indentation > Special > Hanging*