MLA Citation Style, 9th ed.

This guide explains the basic rules of MLA citation and provides examples for commonly used resources. For more detailed information, consult the MLA Handbook (Broadway Library PE 1478 M57 2021) or one of the other MLA guides on the Library website.

The MLA format consists of two parts:

1. **In-text citations**
2. **Works Cited (a bibliography at the end of your paper)**

In-Text Citations (in the body of your paper)

Provide the author's **last name** and the **page number** in parentheses immediately following a quotation or a paraphrase from a source.

1 Author

(Baldwin 132).

In "Sonny's Blues", Baldwin describes … (132).

2 Authors

(Butler and Hark 206-07).

Butler and Hark present the basic tenets of … (206-07).

3 or More Authors

(Hines et al. 11).

Hines et al. explore the relationship between … (11).

*For 3 or more authors, only include the first authors last name followed by et al. for all other authors.

Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers

(Cardinal 112).

The nature of the place was... (Cardinal 112).

Corporate Author

(Modern Language Association of America 18).

* Note the full name of the corporate author

No Author – use shortened title

("Courage" 126)

* When there is no author, use a shortened title. Article and webpage titles are in quotation marks, books and websites are in italics

AI (CoPilot, ChatGPT, etc.) – use shortened prompt

("Women rights")

* MLA states that AI tools do not have authors. Instead, use a shortened version of the prompt you used for your search) and put it in quotation marks and sentence case.

No Page Number

"What is it about us human beings that we can't let go of lost things?" asks the author (Silko, par. 2).

*When no page number is provided, use a paragraph or section number. If none is available, omit.

Indirect Source

In analyzing "what holds marriage together," Jan Trost proposes that most of the standard bonds have declined (qtd. in Beaujot 110).

An indirect source is when you quote a source that is cited or quoted in the source you are using. Use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you consulted.

Poem

In sonnet 73, Shakespeare compares the branches of trees in late autumn   to "[b]are ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang" (line 4).

* Provide the line numbers. If these are not provided, note the page number.

Play

Hamlet seems resolute at first when he asserts, "Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift / As meditation…. / May sweep to my revenge" (1.5.35-37).

* Cite the act, scene, and lines, separating the numbers with periods. The example above refers to act 1, scene 5, lines 35-37 of Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*.

Works Cited list (at the end of your paper)

Core Elements for MLA Citations – include only those which apply:

1.	Author.
2.	Title of Source.
3.	Title of Container,
4.	Other Contributors,
5.	Version,
6.	Number,
7.	Publisher,
8.	Publication date,
9.	Location.

The MLA format is based on a list of 9 core elements, which are given in a specific order (see table).

To write a citation, include all core elements that are available and omit those that are not.

Use the punctuation after each element as outlined in the table.

Citations are double-spaced.

The first line begins at the left margin and all subsequent lines use a hanging indent.

Publication date: provide the most specific date available in the format of day-month-year.

Location - Which Link?
Use the DOI and proceed it with https://doi.org/.
If there is no DOI, use the permanent link as it is noted on the resource.
When there is no DOI or permanent link, use the URL and remove the https://.

Authors, Books & eBooks

Core Elements for Books: Author. *Title of source*. Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Page number range (for chapters). *Database*, DOI/Permanent link/URL.

One Author

Vermette, Katherena. *The Circle*. Hamish Hamilton, 2023.

*The author's name is reversed; the title is in italics.

Two Authors

Butler, Judith, and Frédéric Worms. *The Livable and the Unlivable*. Fordham UP, 2023. *EBSCOhost*,
research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=708f2508-d88d-3b2b-ac59-cc928043382a.

*First author's name is reversed; the second author's name is not. Use the abbreviation UP for University Press.

*For e-books, note the database in italics and give the link as it is provided.

Three or More Authors

Hollway, Wendy, et al. *Climate Psychology: A Matter of Life and Death*. Phoenix Publishing House, 2022.

        EBSCOhost, research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=20af5389-f916-3159-a97c-8c999fa398b1.

*Only list the first author's name in reverse order; for all other authors note as "et al."

*For e-books, note the database in italics and give the link as it is provided.

Editor(s) as Author

Bennett, Donna and Russell Brown, editors. *An Anthology of Canadian Literature in English*. 4th ed.,

        Oxford UP, 2019.

* add editor or editors after the name(s)

Edition of a Book

Mays, Kelly J., editor. *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Shorter 14th ed., W.W. Norton & Company,

        2022.

*The edition information is placed before the publisher and is abbreviated.

Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Lekeyten, Elder, Kwantlen First Nation. *Community Justice*. Personal communication, 4 April 2019.

        Shared on the traditional unceded territory of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo,

        Tsawwassen, Qayqayt and Kwikwetlem Peoples.

*Core elements: Last name, First names, Elder, Nation/Community. Topic/subject of communication if applicable. Personal communication, Day Month Year. Territorial Acknowledgement of where the information was shared/collected.

Corporate Author or Organization

MLA Handbook. The Modern Language Association of America, 2021. *EBSCOhost*,

        research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=2674803f-987c-3dca-91c8-bc3e6584f930.

* Note the corporate author or organization's name in full.

* When the corporate author and the publisher are the same, note the title first and list the corporate author as the publisher.

Chapter or Article from an Edited Book

Stapleton, Patricia A. "Suicide as Apocalypse in *The Handmaid's Tale*." *Margaret Atwood's Apocalypses*,

edited by Karma Waltonen, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015, pp. 27-39. *EBSCOhost*,

research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=d3af9527-21bc-3348-90c8-0c22a7f80885.

* Note the author of the chapter and place the title of the chapter in quotation marks. The title of the book is in italics and followed by the editor's name. Add the page numbers for the chapter after the date. The database is in italics and followed by the link.

Online Book (public domain)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby. Project Gutenberg*, 18 Oct. 2024,

www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/64317.

* Cite a Project Gutenberg e-book noting Project Gutenberg as the publisher, the publication/updated date, & URL.

Articles from Journals, Magazines & Newspapers

Core elements to include in your citation for a journal, magazine, or newspaper article:

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol., no., Date, Pages. *Database*, DOI/Permanent link/URL.

** **Date:** provide the most specific date on the source in the format of day-month-year. Use lowercase for seasons (fall, etc.)*

** **Location link**: Use the DOI and proceed it with https://doi.org/. If there is no DOI, use the permanent link as it is noted on the resource. When there is no DOI or permanent link, use the URL and remove the https://.*

Article in a Scholarly Journal

Library Database

McClaurin, Irma. "Seeing James Baldwin through a Black Photographic Lens." *James Baldwin Review*, vol.

10, no. 1, 2024, pp. 235–45. *JSTOR*, https://doi.org/10.7227/JBR.10.29.

* The article title is in quotation marks; journal title in italics
* Note the name of the database in italics and provide the link

Internet

Maplethorpe, Lois and Eunice Eunhee Jang. "Growing Our Roots: Exploring the Home Language and

Literacy Environment within the Context of Indigenous Ways of Knowing." *Language and Literacy*,

vol. 26, no. 3, 2024, pp. 96-122, https://doi.org/10.20360/langandlit29722. Accessed 27 Feb. 2025.

Article in a Magazine / Newspaper / News Website

Library Database

Yu, Andrea. "How College Changed My Life." *Maclean's*, 05 Sept., 2024. *Canadian Business and Current Affairs*, https://login.ezproxy.vcc.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/how-college-changed-my-life/docview/3101159215/se-2.

* Provide the full date as day-month-year
* Note the name of the database in italics and provide the link

Internet

Benchetrit, Jenna. "Why Major Countries Can't Agree on How to Regulate Artificial Intelligence." *CBC News*, 13 Feb. 2025, www.cbc.ca/news/business/paris-summit-artificial-intelligence-explainer-1.7456222. Accessed 5 March 2025.

AI Generated Information

AI – ChaptGPT, Co-Pilot, etc

"How does climate change create extreme weather events in Canada with citations for three sources" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 6 Nov. 2023 version, OpenAI, 12 Feb. 2025, chat.openai.com/chat.

- Do not use the author field. MLA does not consider OpenAI an author.
- Title: Your prompt (question) in quotations
- Title of Container - *ChatGPT*
- Version: find and include the date of the version you are using. E.g. GPT-4-Turbo is "6 Nov. 2023 version"
- Publisher: OpenAI
- Date: the date the content was created. E.g. 12 Feb. 2025
- URL for ChatGPT - chat.openai.com/chat

General Reference Works (Encyclopedia, Handbook, etc.)

Electronic Encyclopedia

Vidar, Sara. "Thomas King." *Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia*, 2024. *EBSCOhost*, research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=36e58b6c-b058-30cd-bf0e-

d6d330f4a238.

Websites

Core Elements:

Author. "Title of web page/section/article." *Title of Overall Website*, Other contributors, Version or Edition, Number, Publisher, Full Date, URL (remove https://).

Webpage

Suzuki, David, and Ian Hanington. "CBC Could Be a Beacon in Turbulent Times." *David Suzuki Foundation*, 6 March 2025, davidsuzuki.org/story/cbc-could-be-a-beacon-in-turbulent-times. Accessed 12 March 2025.

Webpage - Group Author

"Where We All Live." *Canada Council for the Arts*, https://canadacouncil.ca/spotlight/2025/01/where-we-all-live . Accessed 31 Jan. 2025.

Webpage – No Author

"Margaret Atwood." *Poetry Foundation*, 2025, www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/margaret-atwood. Accessed 20 Feb. 2025.

Entire Website – No Author

Telefilm Canada. 2025, telefilm.ca.

Videos, TV, Films & Podcasts

Video from the Internet (YouTube, TED, etc.)

Harari, Yuval N. "The actual cost of preventing climate breakdown." *TED*, June 2022,
www.ted.com/talks/yuval_noah_harari_the_actual_cost_of_preventing_climate_breakdown.

Video from a Streaming Service (Netflix, etc.)

Brooklyn. Directed by John Crowley, performances by Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Emory Cohen,
and Jim Broadbent, Fox Searchlight, 2015. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com/ca/title/80037688.

The Power of the Dog. Directed by Jane Campion, performances by Benedict Cumberbatch and Kirsten
Dunst, Netflix, 2021. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com/ca/title/81127997.

List films by their title. Include the name of the director, and if relevant, list performer names, then the film studio or
distributor, and the release year. List the platform and provide the link (removing https://)

Video from Database (Kanopy, Criterion, NFB Online, etc.)

King Lear. Directed by Richard Eyre, performances by Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, and Florence
Pugh, Photon Films, 2018. *Kanopy*, www.kanopy.com/en/vccca/video/10947102.

Episode in a Series

"Sort of Stable." *Sort Of*, season 1, episode 4, 16 Nov. 2021. *CBC Gem*, gem.cbc.ca/media/sort-of/s01e04.

Film (DVD)

Arrival. Directed by Denis Villeneuve, performances by Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, and Forest Whitaker,
Paramount Pictures, 2016.

Podcast

"Church and State." *Muddied Water*, season 2, episode 4, *CBC Listen*, 22 Oct. 2020,
www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/371-muddied-water/episode/15804438-s2-episode-4-church-and-
state.

Social Media

Core Elements:

Author [@handle]. "Text from the post. If no text, provide a description." *Title of website*, Date posted,

URL. Accessed date.

*Use the name on the account as the author. However, if an author's online handle differs from the author's account name, add the handle in square brackets after the name.

*If you can't determine the date posted, list the copyright date of the page, and if there's no copyright date, provide the date you accessed the post.

Instagram (Photo or Video)

Penny, Louise [louisepennyauthor]. Photo of *The Grey Wolf* cover. *Instagram*, 14 Nov. 2024,

www.instagram.com/p/DCWstfagvec/?igsh=MTVseXh0NXMwNjVsdg.

TikTok

CBC News [cbcnews]. "Ontario pulls U.S. alcohol from LCBO." *TikTok*, 4 March 2025,

www.tiktok.com/@cbcnews/video/7478096170292694277.

Image or Photograph

Cite images found online just like a website. Credit the creator/photographer of the image, not the person who has posted the image.

Online Image or Photograph

Lindsay, Jack. "Exterior of the Stanley Theatre Showing a Close Up View of the Marqee with Advertising

for *Duel in the Sun*." *City of Vancouver Archives*, 1948, searcharchives.vancouver.ca/exterior-of-

stanley-theatre-showing-close-up-view-of-marquee-with-advertising-for-duel-in-sun.