
8th Edition MLA Citation Style

The *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, emphasizes the true importance of sourcing, which is communication between the reader and the writer as well as, “giving credit to those whose work influenced yours” (Modern Language Association, 2016, p. 128). The 8th edition of MLA recognizes that in an ever-changing world, new media forms are being created daily, faster than the handbook can be updated. To address this, the 8th edition shifts focus from highly specific formatting to a more standardized format that can be applied to any type of material, as it is based upon the common elements of most works (p. 3). The 8th edition of MLA pushes the writer to think critically when citing their sources and asks writers to “Think, select [and] organize” (p. 4).

According to the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, writers should consider the following when sourcing material:

- Think: consider the source you are documenting;
- Select: identify the information that is relevant and appropriate for your source;
- Organize: arrange the information logically and simply (p. 4).

In-text Citation

In MLA style, a source cited within the body of your text requires the author and the page:

- “Religious intolerance led to the expulsion of thousands of Jews from Spain in 1492” (Claude and Weston 136). [Note: The period appears after the parenthetical citation.]

If you use the author’s name(s) to introduce the quote, you do not need to use it in the citation:

- As Claude and Weston remind us, “Religious intolerance led to the expulsion of thousands of Jews from Spain in 1492” (136).

For a quoted passage that is longer than four full typed lines, use a block quote. Block quotes should be indented half an inch from the left margin and double-spaced. No quotation marks are used. The period appears before the citation with a block quote:

Regardless of their ultimate origin or justification, human rights are understood to represent both individual and group demands for political power, wealthy, enlightenment, and other cherished values or capabilities, the most fundamental of which is respect and its constituent elements of reciprocal tolerance and mutual forbearance in the pursuit of all other such values or capabilities. (Claude and Weston 20)

Remember: if you are summarizing or paraphrasing a source, you still must cite it!

Special Cases

- If you are using two or more books by authors with the same last name, use the first initial of each author's first name and their last name: (J. Smith 205) and (K. Smith 17).
- If you are using more than one source by the same author, put a comma after the author's last name and add the title (or a portion of the title if it is long) before inserting the page number as usual. Use quotation marks or italics as required for the title: (Garnham, "Political Economy" 62) and (Garnham, *Capitalism* 45).

Electronic Sources

To cite an online source in your text, use the same components that you would use to cite any other work (author and page), depending on the information you have available. If you have the **author's name**, use it. If not, the **name of the organization** or the **title of the website** will do.

- If page numbers are not available, but section or paragraph numbers are, use them instead.
- If no numbering system is available, don't create one. Instead, incorporate the information you have into your text and leave out the parenthetical reference:
 - According to the Statistics Canada website, Canadian unemployment dropped to 5.9 % in September 2007.

Works Cited

As mentioned above, the 8th edition of MLA shifts away from a specific source by source format to a format focused on the common elements of most works. *The MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, tells writers to use the following format, filling in all information that is available to them and relevant to their sources:

- Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

In the 8th edition of MLA, there are a few key changes to the works cited list, although many elements have remained the same. The title of source section refers to the title of the work you're referencing; for example, this could be an article title or a book chapter (p. 25). Title of container refers to the name of the larger work in which your source is housed (p. 30). For example, this could be the name of a journal or the title of a book or collection. The other contributors section is where any additional people who have contributed to the work are credited; these may be editors, translators, etc. (p. 37). A key change from previous editions of MLA can be found in the location section. In prior editions, the writer was required to list the publication city, but the 8th edition only requires this in special circumstances (p. 51). In the 8th edition, location refers to the location of the work itself, either page numbers for printed works or the URL or DOI for an online work (p. 46). The 8th edition no longer requires the writer to include "print" or "web" at the end of their citation.

Works Cited

Eaton, Judy. "Week 2: The Science of Learning." BF290: Academic Literacy – Social Sciences. Sept. 2020, Wilfrid Laurier University. Recorded Lecture.
<https://mylearningspace.wlu.ca>

Commented [A1]: The Broadview Guide indicates an extra double-space here, while the MLA Handbook only has one double-space

Indian Affairs and Northern Development. *The Value-Added Aspects of the Canadian Diamond Industry*, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1998, publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/R2-104-1998E.pdf

Commented [A2]: Lecture retrieved online. To distinguish from a lecture heard in person, a description for the type of work is included. For the URL include a link that is publicly available—in this case it is the login for MyLS.

Kappler, Victor E., et al. *The Mythology of Crime and Criminal Justice*, 4th ed, Waveland Press, 2004.

Commented [A3]: Corporate author

"Labour Force Survey (LFS)." *Statistics Canada*, 5 May 2016,

www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3701

Commented [A4]: 3 or more authors; different editions

Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Directed by Gilliam, Terry and Terry Jones, Python (Monty) Pictures, 25 May 1975.

Commented [A6]: Film

Mumford, Laura S. "Feminist Theory and Television Studies." *The Television Studies Book*, Edited by Christine Geraghty and David Lusted, Oxford UP, 1998, pp. 114-30.

Commented [A7]: Selection from an anthology

Selenko, Eva, and Bernad Batinic. "Beyond Debt. A Moderator Analysis of the Relationship Between Perceived Financial Strain and Mental Health." *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 73, no. 12, 2011, DOI:10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.09.022

Commented [A8]: A work with 2 authors; article in an academic journal

Vandekemp, Rebecca. "Universal Primary Education in Kenya: The Incongruence Between Its Perceived Success and the Current Situation." *Bridges: An Undergraduate Journal of Contemporary Connections*, vol. 1, no. 1, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2013, scholars.wlu.ca/bridges_contemporary_connections/vol1/iss1/1.

Commented [A9]: Article in an online journal; single author

Whitbread, Brock. "Party Leaders make Big Promises to Ontarians." *The Sputnik*, special ed., 10 Oct. 2007, p. 4.

Commented [A10]: Newspaper article

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. Translated by Marion Wiesel, Hill and Wang, 2006.

Commented [A11]: Work in translation

Zipes, Jack et al. *The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature: The Traditions in English*, W.W. Norton and Company, 2005.

Commented [A12]: Entire anthology