



MLA

Quick Bits



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MLA formatting is a way to cite sources of information both within your text and on a separate references page at the end of the document. The following is based on the MLA Handbook, 9th Edition, and shows rules for various source types and situations.

Basic MLA Format for Works Cited:

Author(s) . "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Publisher, Year.

Author(s). = Lastname, Firstname. After the first author, all other authors are listed as "Firstname Lastname" For instance, it will read as "Lastname1, Firstname1, and Firstname2 Lastname2."

"Title of Source." = The title of the smaller source (i.e. a chapter of a book, a single article in a journal, a web page's title). If citing a whole book, journal, website, or anything of the like, skip this element and move to the next one.

***Title of Container*,** = The title of the whole source (i.e. a whole book, an entire journal, the name of a website).

Publisher, = The organization responsible for the release of the source to the public. This can include book publishers, film studios, theatre companies, and others.

Year. = The latest year the source was published. If you have a link to an online source, instead end this element with a comma and a space and put the link in immediately after. Then, put a period after the link with a space and say "Accessed" with the most recent date you accessed the source on (i.e. "Accessed 10 Oct. 2010").

In all cases, pay close attention to punctuation, capitalization, spacing, and italicization.

Source Type	In-Text Citation	Reference/Notes
Article in an Online Newspaper with an Author	(Damiano)	Damiano, Jessica. "Weeds Aren't Just Nuisances, They're Messengers. Here's What They Can Tell You." <i>Winnipeg Free Press</i> , 17 June 2025, www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/2025/06/17/weeds-arent-just-nuisances-theyre-messengers-heres-what-they-can-tell-you . Accessed 17 June 2025.
Scholarly Journal Article from an online database	(Dane 406)	Dane, Gabrielle. "Reading Ophelia's Madness." <i>Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i> , vol.10, no. 2, 1998, pp.405-23. <i>Taylor & Francis Online</i> . doi: 10.1179/exm.1998.10.2.405. Accessed 17 June 2025.
Two sources with the same author(s).	(Steinbeck, <i>East of Eden</i> 23) (Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> 42)	Steinbeck, John. <i>East of Eden</i> . John Steinbeck centennial ed. (1902-2002), Penguin Books, 2002. ---. <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> . John Steinbeck centennial ed. (1902-2002), Penguin Books, 2002.

NOTE: Use three dashes instead of the author's name and sort alphabetically by title of work.

Source Type	In-Text Citation	Reference/Notes
E-book (One Author)	As Cameron notes, while she does not endorse prescription or description, “the essential precondition for these practices –normativity–IS fundamental” (2).	Cameron, Deborah. <i>Verbal Hygiene</i> . Ebrary ed., Routledge, 1995. Accessed 7 Oct. 2021. NOTE: an e-book is considered to be an edition of a source when it also appears in print, which is why the term “Ebrary ed.” has been used in this citation. NOTE: an e-book is considered to be an edition of a source when it also appears in print, which is why the term “Ebrary ed.” has been used in this citation.
Book with three or more authors	(Granatstein et al. 215)	Granatstein, J.L., et al. <i>Twentieth Century Canada</i> . McGraw, 1983.
A Page on a Web Site	The article provides much more than a handy recipe (Saenz).	Saenz, Alissa. “Vegetarian Slow Cooker Chili.” <i>Connoisseurs Veg</i> , 26 Dec. 2022, www.connoisseursveg.com/vegetarian-slow-cooker-chili . Accessed 17 June 2025.
PDF document	(University of the Fraser Valley)	University of the Fraser Valley. <i>MLA Citation Style Guide 9th Edition</i> . https://ufv.ca/media/assets/academic-success-centre/handouts/MLA-Style-Guide-9th-Ed.-December-2021.pdf . Accessed 02 Feb. 2022. NOTE: As the author (University of the Fraser Valley) is also its publisher, this information does not need to be repeated.
YouTube video	(goUFV)	goUFV. “Academic Integrity #4: Why Misconduct Happens.” <i>YouTube</i> , 2 Oct. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTxQjbWqNpg . Accessed 17 June 2025.
X post (Tweet)	(@U of Fraser Valley)	@U of Fraser Valley. “She’s the last fluent speaker of upriver Halq’eméylem, and she has worked for more than 50 of her 79 years to preserve the language. Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips will receive hon degree from UFV on Wed.” X, 4 Jun. 2018, 9:45 a.m., https://x.com/goUFV/status/1003679085816524800 . Accessed 17 June 2025.
Personal communication (email, class notes, etc.)	(Corman)	Corman, Tara. Class notes. 2 November 2021.
Figure (chart, diagram, map, photo, etc.)	Caption below figure: Fig. 1. Berthe Morisot. <i>Reading</i> . 1873. Cleveland Museum of Art. OR Fig. 1. Edward Topsell, <i>Manticore</i> , woodcut, 1658.	NOTE 1: If the caption details the full information of the source (as it does in the first example to the left), you do not need a full citation in your works cited page. Topsell, Edward. <i>Manticore. Curious Woodcuts of Fanciful and Real Beasts</i> . By Konrad Gener, Dover, 1971, p. 8. Originally published in <i>The History of Four-Footed Beasts and Serpents...</i> , by Topsell, London, 1658. NOTE 2: Samples obtained from <i>MLA Handbook Ninth Edition</i>
Author and editor	(Richler 56)	Richler, Mordecai. <i>The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz</i> , edited by Malcolm Ross, McClelland, 1969.

This resource is excerpted from the Academic Success Centre’s *MLA Citation Style Guide, rev Jan. 2022*. Please see that document for many more examples.