

A large red square with a white border, centered on a white background. Inside the square, the text "MLA Formatting" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

MLA Formatting

Why do we need to know it?

- Will be used in high school and college
- Will be used in almost all essays
- Helps you make citations to prevent plagiarism
- Makes things credible/professional

1. From the Top

Header:

Name, Instructor, Class (English 1), Date

Heading:

Last name then page number



2. Formatting

- Center title of paper with no extra space between header or essay
- Double space
- Times New Roman
- 12 pt
- 1-inch margins
- Indent first sentence of new paragraph

Understanding Occupational Information Improves Career Decision Making¶

→ Students normally decide on a career and then enroll in college and select a major that they think will get them to their career goal. Most of the time this career decision is made with little occupational information. With the internet this information is readily available and can provide a student with valuable information when choosing a career.¶

¶

3. In-Text Citations

In Text

where students are engaged in the process of “developing instructional materials that respond to students’ interests and respect their culture and prior learning” (Fingeret 14). A learning experience built around learners’ lives would include the following components: “reading and responding to a text; mastering the language of the text; generating new language and telling new stories; comparing experiences with experiences of other learners; reflection or action” (Weinstein 7).

Bibliography

Works Cited

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Article text

1. Quote
2. In parentheses
 - a. Author’s name
 - b. Page number
 - c. Nothing more! No symbols, dashes, commas, etc.
3. Punctuation for the sentence is the very last thing, whether it’s a period, exclamation point, or question mark.

Be sure it lines up with what your citation is!

4. Works Cited

- Citation generator
 - Citation machine
 - Easybib.com
 - Be sure to double-check any citations generated by a website!

Hanging Indents

Works Cited

→ "Blueprint Lays Out Clear Path for Climate Action." *Environmental Defense Fund*. Environmental Defense Fund, 8 May 2007. Web. 24 May 2009.

→ Clinton, Bill. Interview by Andrew C. Revkin. "Clinton on Climate Change." *New York Times*. New York Times, May 2007. Web. 25 May 2009.

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MLA Formatting and Style Guide ▾

MLA Formatting and Style Guide >

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MLA Endnotes and Footnotes

MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format

MLA Works Cited Page: Books

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MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources

MLA Works Cited: Other Common Sources

MLA Additional Resources

MLA Abbreviations

MLA Sample Works Cited Page

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MLA Tables, Figures, and Examples

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MLA General Format

Giving to the OWL

Suggested Resources

-MLA Guide

-APA Guide

-How to Navigate the New OWL

-Media File Index

-OWL Exercises

MLA Formatting and Style Guide

Summary:

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

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The following overview should help you better understand how to cite sources using MLA eighth edition, including the list of works cited and in-text citations.

Please use the example at the bottom of this page to cite the Purdue OWL in MLA. See also our [MLA vidcast series](#) on the [Purdue OWL YouTube Channel](#).

Creating a Works Cited list using the eighth edition

MLA has turned to a style of documentation that is based on a general method that may be applied to every possible source, to many different types of writing. But since texts have become increasingly mobile, and the same document may be found in several different sources, following a set of fixed rules is no longer sufficient.

The current system is based on a few principles, rather than an extensive list of specific rules. While the handbook still gives examples of how to cite sources, it is organized according to the process of documentation, rather than by the sources themselves. This process teaches writers a flexible method that is universally applicable. Once you are familiar with the method, you can use it to document any type of source, for any type of paper, in any field.

Here is an overview of the process:

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. These are the general pieces of information that MLA suggests including in each Works Cited entry. In your citation, the elements should be listed in the following order:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown here. Earlier editions of the handbook included the place of publication, and required punctuation such as journal editions in parentheses, and colons after issue numbers. In the current version, punctuation is simpler (just commas and periods separate the elements), and information about the source is kept to the basics.

Confusion? Visit
Purdue OWL or ask
for help! :)