WORKS CITED AND IN-TEXT CITATIONS FOR MLA
9TH EDITION

There are **nine MLA core elements**, and they are basic pieces of information that should be common to all sources. The overwhelming majority of changes to MLA 9 will not impact the way you draft the Works Cited pages or in-text citations. The examples provided are from the official MLA 9 manual but are not comprehensive. For clarification or examples not provided in this handout, please consult with a WMC writing consultant.

We do **not** recommend that you use the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) to help with MLA citation. While Purdue provides information for MLA Formatting and Style, it provides suggestions for following citation rules by publication format (because this is what we are familiar with). Keep in mind that writers should follow core elements rather than “fixed rules.” In addition, Purdue has a Citation Generator that IS NOT reliable.

**EXAMPLES OF COMMON ENTRIES BY FORMAT**

*Below are examples of how to list a source in the “Works Cited” page and in text using parenthetical citation.*

**BOOKS**

**By One Author** (physical book you read, not online)

**New for 9th Edition**: No publication location.

(Davis 48)

**By One Author** (physical object, event, or experience experienced firsthand), such as in a museum, lecture, performance, conference presentation, identify where it is located (city and state, or city and country).


(Knapp)

**By Two Authors**

(Dorris and Erdrich 2)

**By More Than Two Authors**

(Charon et al., “Principles” 4)
Author’s name and title in parenthetical citation if the citation is not provided in prose.

**By an Unknown or Anonymous Author**

(Beowulf 18)

**By an Organization/Corporation, with a Different Publisher**
By an Organization/Corporation that also Published the Work


With an Editor

**New with 9th Edition:** Notice no “https://” preceding the url.


With a Translator


Citing a Chapter in a Book


Audiobook

A Play or Short Story Published in a Collection or Anthology

(Euripides 457)

A Poem Published in a Collection or Anthology

(Marvell 1368)

**Indirect Source**
An indirect source is a work that is cited in another work. If you quote an author’s quotation of a source you did not personally consult, put the abbreviation *qtd. in* (quoted in) before the indirect source you are citing. In the example taken from the MLA handbook, Samuel Johnson is being quoted by James Boswell, his biographer.

Example prose: Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (*qtd. in* Boswell 289).

The work cited would be the Boswell piece that was read.


**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS**
With Volume Number and Issue Number, No DOI (physical periodical that you looked at)
**New with 9th Edition:** Drop the repeated number in pages or references to years. This is similar to Chicago Style and ASA practice of dropping repeated numbers in the hundredth place or higher. This applies in the Works Cited and the Parenthetical Citation.

| Incorrect       | pp. 309-314  
|                | pp. 1135-1197 
|                | pp. 35-7     
|                | lines 129-131|
| Correct        | pp. 309-14  
|                | pp. 1131-97  
|                | pp. 35-37    
|                | line 129-31  |

(Boggs 150)

**With an Issue Number, No Volume Number, No DOI**

(Kafka 22)

**With a Season (NEW FOR MLA 9 - Seasons are lowercase in the ‘date’ element)**

(Belton 58)

**From an Online Database, with a DOI or a Hyperlink**

*Note:* “https:” is included in the DOI link.

WEB SOURCES

News Article or Blog Post Without an Author

News Article or Blog Post With an Author

Website with No Credited Author (Usually Organization Websites)
Folgerpedia. Folger Shakespeare Library, 17 July 2018, folgerpedia.folger.edu/Main_Page

MEDIA

Films

Episode of a Television Series

(“I, Borg” 00:23:13)

Songs
(Lopez)

YouTube Videos (Or Videos Uploaded To Vimeo, Canvas, etc.)

(History of the World)

Interviews (Conducted by Yourself - The Name listed is that of who you Interviewed)

Steinberg, Rachel. E-mail interview with the author, 7 Jan. 2021.  
(Steinberg)

Materials Given From Lectures/Slides Uploaded to Canvas

(Slides - Lecture 4/22/2021)

Class Notes/Lecture Notes (Name Given is that of the Professor; location is the place that the notes where it is taken)

Kramer, John. Lecture. 11 Nov. 2020, CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA.  
(Kramer)
The formatting listed below is the official MLA 9 standard for manuscripts. Please note that your professor may have more specific formatting requirements.

**Formatting Requirements are as Follows:**
- One-inch margins at top, bottom, and both sides (left/right) of text.
- The paper should be double spaced, including the works cited page and quotations.
- Choose an easily readable font (like Times New Roman)
- Font size set between 11 and 13.
- Use the same font and font size throughout the entire paper.
- First lines in paragraphs should be indented half an inch.
- **One space after a period** or other concluding punctuation mark, unless your instructor prefers two spaces. *New for 9th Edition.*

**Page Numbers:**
Your paper should have your last name and the page number in the header, in the upper right-hand corner.

**Title Page:**
There is no separate title page requirement for papers written by individual students in MLA 9. However, if it is a group paper, you do need a title page. The title page for group papers has no page number, only a header that lists all authors, the class it’s for, the date of submission, and a centered title.
Header:
Your paper should always begin with a header, left-aligned in the upper left-hand corner. It should have your name, your professor, what class the assignment is for, then the date. After the date, provide the centered title of the paper. A sample is provided below:

Jane X. Gomez
Professor Garcia
ENGL 102
8 Sep 2021
Sample Title Goes Here

The first paragraph of your paper starts on this line afterwards and continues from here. You do not need a title page since you are the only one doing this project unless your professor tells you otherwise and requests one. Always follow your professor’s instructions first and foremost when producing an assignment.

Above: MLA format sample

Works Cited
Works Cited should:

• appear at the end of the paper.
• include the heading Works Cited, centered and an inch from the top of the paper.

Words and phrases referred to as words:
Italicize words and phrases that are referred to as words (do not use quotation marks).

Example: The word *lunar* derives from the Latin word *luna*, meaning moon.

Hyphenate compound adjectives before a noun:

Examples
well-earned diploma (adverb)
fifth-year senior (number-noun compound)
early-eighteenth-century architecture (adjective before compound adjective)
on-campus activities (prepositional phrases)
Swiss-cheese maker (clarity: not a cheese maker who is Swiss)

When to use “which (nonrestrictive clause) vs “that” (restrictive clause)

*Which* is usually used in nonrestrictive clauses; these are clauses that add detail but can be omitted without changing the main idea.
*That* is usually used in restrictive clauses; these are clauses that not only add detail but also are essential for the meaning of the sentence.

Example of a nonrestrictive clause (with commas): My Chinese class, *which is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays*, was cancelled again.

Why: This sentence has a nonrestrictive clause and can omit the reference “which was held on Tuesdays and Thursdays,” because the dates are not essential to make the sentence's meaning clear.

Example of a restrictive clause (using “that” and no commas): The Portuguese Water Dog *that had a distinctive white patch* won the prize for Best in Show.

Why: It is unclear which Portuguese Water Dog won without the clause.