

Citing Sources: MLA Style 8th Edition

This guide contains documentation style examples for print and electronic sources recommended by the Modern Language Association (MLA) 8th Edition (2016). There are two parts to MLA citation:

1. **In-text Citation:** The brief citations within your research paper that are placed after information which is quoted or paraphrased from the sources you use.
2. **Works Cited List:** This is the last page of your essay. It lists the detailed citation information for the sources you used in your paper.

MLA In-Text citation is often included at the end of a quote or paraphrase and is formatted like this: (Author's Last Name p#).

However, the placement of the in-text citation can change depending on whether or not you introduce the author before your quote or paraphrasing, but the same information for the citation is still required. See examples below.

Example 1 (paraphrased): Eighty percent of children who live in the United States eat grapes (Jenkins 3).

Example 2 (quoted): Jenkins states, "In the United States, grapes are consumed by 80% of children" (3).

Sample MLA Paper from Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Take note of the in-text citations in the sample MLA paper to the right. Do you notice the difference in formatting between the quote from Danhof and the quote from Lorain?

MLA Paper Formatting Rules:

- Double space the text of your paper
- Use legible font
- Use 12 pt. font size
- One space after periods
- 1 inch margins on all sides
- Include a header on the top right hand corner. It should contain your last name and the page number of the paper.

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12 February 2012
Toward a Recovery of Nineteenth Century Farming Handbooks

Angeli 1

While researching texts written about nineteenth century farming, I found a few authors who published books about the literature of nineteenth century farming, particularly agricultural journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures. These authors often placed the farming literature they were studying into an historical context by discussing the important events in agriculture of the year in which the literature was published (see Demaree, for example). However, while these authors discuss journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures, I could not find much discussion about another important source of farming knowledge: farming handbooks. My goal in this paper is to bring this source into the agricultural literature discussion by connecting three agricultural handbooks from the nineteenth century with nineteenth century agricultural history.

Farming's Influence on Education. One result of the newly circulating print information was the "need for acquiring scientific information upon which could be based a rational technology" that could "be substituted for the current diverse, empirical practices" (Danhof 69). In his 1825 book *Nature and Reason Harmonized in the Practice of Husbandry*, John Lorain begins his first chapter by stating that "[v]ery erroneous theories have been propagated" resulting in faulty farming methods (1). His words here create a framework for the rest of his book, as he offers his readers narratives of his own trials and errors and even dismisses foreign, time-tested techniques farmers had held on to: "The knowledge we have of that very ancient and numerous nation the Chinese, as well as the very located habits and costumes of this very singular people, is in itself insufficient to teach us . . ." (75). His book captures the call and need for scientific experiments to develop new knowledge meant to be used in/on/with American soil, which reflects some farmers' thinking of the day.

NO AUTHOR FOR YOUR SOURCE? Include the first few words of the title instead: ("Red Seas Rising" 6).

NO PAGE NUMBER FOR YOUR SOURCE? No substitution is necessary; just cite the author: (Kilgarif).

MLA WORKS CITED FORMATS:

SOURCE	EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED ENTRY
<p>Entire Book</p>	<p>Format: Author Last name, First name. <i>Title of Book: Subtitle</i>. Publisher, year. Database or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example (Print): Gladwell, Malcolm. <i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i>. Little, Brown and Company, 2008.</p> <p>Example (eBook): Gladwell, Malcolm. <i>Outliers: The story of success</i>. Little, Brown and Company, 2008. <i>eBook Collection EBSCOhost</i>.</p>
<p>Entire Book with an Editor</p>	<p>Format: Editor's Last name, First name, editor. <i>Title of Book: Subtitle</i>. Edition (if other than first), Publisher, year. Database or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Lopate, Philip, editor. <i>The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present</i>. Doubleday, 1994.</p>
<p>Encyclopedia, Dictionary Article</p>	<p>Format: Last name, First name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Encyclopedia (or Dictionary)</i>, Edition (if noted), year. Database or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Reimers, David. "Immigration." <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i>, 2001.</p>
<p>Part of a Book: poem, essay or collection of essays, story, chapter (This includes a work in an Anthology)</p>	<p>Format: Author Last name, First name. "Title of Part." <i>Title of Book: Subtitle</i>, edited by First Name Last Name, edition, Publisher, year, page number(s). Database or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Wilson, August. <i>Fences. Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing</i>, edited by X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, Interactive ed., 11th ed., Longman, 2010, pp. 1839-87.</p> <p>Example (eBook): "Wilde, Oscar." <i>Authors of the 19th Century</i>, edited by Adam Augustyn, Britannica Educational Publishing with Rosen Educational Services, 2014, pp. 430-35. <i>The Britannica Guide to Authors. Gale Virtual Reference Library</i>.</p> <p>Note: Titles of essays, poems, and short stories are placed in quotation marks while titles of novels and plays are italicized.</p>

Notes on Author Names:

- NO AUTHOR, skip the name and start with the Title of the Source.
Example: "Looking for Amy." *Time*, vol. 188, no. 5, 28 Jan. 2017, pp. 15-16.
- TWO-THREE AUTHORS, the format is: Last Name, First Name, First Name Last Name and First Name Last Name.
Example: Bacon, David and Bill Hing. *Fighting Hard*. Doubleday, 2006.
- MORE THAN THREE AUTHORS, the format is: Last Name, First Name of First Author, et al.:
Example: Stegger, Jill, et al. *Leaning Forward*. Cengage, 2011.
- SAME AUTHOR for two or more entries: Use the Last Name, First Name format for the first entry. For each following entry by the same author, use three hyphens and a period:
Example: Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*. Penguin, 2006.
---. *Saving Fish From Drowning*. Putnam, 2005.

SOURCE	EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED ENTRY
Magazine Article	<p>Format: Author Last name, First name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Magazine</i>, vol. no., issue no., day Month year (of issue), page number(s). <i>Database</i> or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Elliott, Philip, and Zeke J. Miller. "How President Trump is Trampling Precedent." <i>Time</i>, vol. 189, no. 4, 6 Feb. 2017, pp. 9–11. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>.</p>
Newspaper Article	<p>Format: Author Last name, First name. "Title of Article." <i>Name of Newspaper</i>, day Month year (of issue), page number(s). <i>Database</i> or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Sang-Hun, Choe. "South Korea Leader Fires Aides in Uproar." <i>New York Times</i>, 31 Oct. 2016, p. A9(L). <i>Opposing Viewpoints in Context</i>.</p>
Scholarly Journal Article	<p>Format: Author Last name, First name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol. no., issue no., year, pages. <i>Database</i> or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: Yong, Caleb. "Justice in Labor Immigration Policy." <i>Social Theory & Practice</i>, vol. 42, no. 4, Oct. 2016, pp. 817–844. <i>JSTOR</i>.</p>
Film	<p>Format: <i>Title of the film or video</i>. Role of other contributors and their First name Last name, Version, Numbers, Publisher, Publication date.</p> <p>Example: <i>The Usual Suspects</i>. Directed by Bryan Singer, performances by Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne, Chazz Palminteri, Stephen Baldwin, and Benicio del Toro, Polygram, 1995.</p>
Sound Recording	<p>Format: Composer, conductor or performer name. "Title of Specific Piece." <i>Title of Album</i>, Label name, date.</p> <p>Example: Holiday, Billie. "God Bless the Child." <i>The Essence of Billie Holiday</i>, Columbia, 1991.</p>
Interview you conducted	<p>Format: Last name, First name of person interviewed. Kind of interview. Date of interview.</p> <p>Example: Depp, Johnny. Personal Interview. 19 Dec. 2007.</p>
Government Publication	<p>Format: Government. Government Agency. <i>Title of Publication: Subtitle</i>. Publisher, year. <i>Database</i> or URL (if applicable).</p> <p>Example: United States. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. <i>Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils</i>. Government Printing Office, 1999.</p>

Notes on Library Databases:

Most online subscription services (databases) provide students with the MLA (and APA) citations already formatted. These are usually generated by clicking on the link labeled as Cite or Cite This. Database generated citations are not always perfect, so you may need to make corrections in capitalization, punctuation, and use of italics. For databases that DO NOT provide the citation, please follow this general example:

Format: Author's Last name, First name. "Title of the Article." *Title of Publication*, vol. no., issue no., year, pages. *Name of Database*, DOI (if available).

Example: Percy, Jennifer. "The Things They Burned." *New Republic*, vol. 247, no. 12, Dec. 2016, pp. 22-31. *Academic Search Complete*.

Citation Tool in
Academic Search Complete

Tools

-  Add to folder
-  Print
-  E-mail
-  Save
-  Cite

MLA WORKS CITED FORMATS: Web Sources

- It is optional to include the date accessed at the end of the citation.
- It is recommended to include the URL in the works-cited list; verify with instructor.
- Do not include the http:// or https:// in the URL.

SOURCE	EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED ENTRY
Web page with an Author	<p>Format: Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Page." <i>Title of Website</i>, Website Publisher (if different than title of website), Date of publication, URL. Date accessed (optional).</p> <p>Example: Warren, Tom. "Microsoft's Surface PC Event: What to Expect." <i>The Verge</i>, Vox Media, 24 Oct. 2016, www.theverge.com/2016/10/24/13379386/microsoft-surface-event-windows-10-devices-preview. Accessed 31 Oct. 2016.</p>
Web page without an Author	<p>Example: "Influenza A (H3N2) Variant Virus." <i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i>, 12 Sept. 2016, www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm.</p>
Entire Website	<p>Format: <i>Title of Website</i>, Website Publisher (if different than title), URL. Date accessed (optional).</p> <p>Example: <i>The Verge</i>, Vox Media, www.theverge.com. Accessed 20 Jan. 2016.</p>
Online Video	<p>Format: Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Video." <i>Name of Website</i>, uploaded by Name of User (if different from author), Date of Upload, URL.</p> <p>Example: Brown, Brené. "The Power of Vulnerability." <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by The RSA, 3 Feb. 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6s7jB6-GoU.</p> <p>Example: Cuddy, Amy. "Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are." <i>TED</i>, June 2012, www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are.</p>

Sample Works Cited Page from Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL)

MLA Works Cited Rules:

- Include Works Cited page at the end of your paper on new page
- Title the page: Works Cited
- Double space all citations but do not include extra spacing between entries
- Use hanging indent, which means indenting the second and subsequent lines of a citation by 0.5 inches
- One space after all punctuation
- One inch margins on all sides
- Include header in the top right hand corner. It should contain your last name and the page# of the paper.

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Works Cited

- Baker, Gladys L., et al. *Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States Department of Agriculture*. [Federal Government], 1996.
- Danhof, Clarence H. *Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870*. Harvard UP, 1969.
- Demaree, Albert Lowther. *The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860*. Columbia UP, 1941.
- "Historical Census Browser." *University of Virginia Library*, 2007, http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2008.
- Lorain, John. *Nature and Reason Harmonized in the Practice of Husbandry*. Carey, 1825.
- Nicholson, John. *The Farmer's Assistant; Being a Digest of All That Relates to Agriculture and the Conducting of Rural Affairs; Alphabetically Arranged and Adapted for the United States*. Warner, 1820.

