

cite website mla 9th

The Art of the MLA 9th Edition Website Citation

cite website mla 9th is a crucial skill for any student, researcher, or academic who relies on digital resources. Accurately attributing information found online not only upholds academic integrity but also allows your readers to locate and verify your sources. Understanding the specific requirements of the MLA 9th edition for citing websites is paramount to avoiding common errors and ensuring your work meets scholarly standards. This comprehensive guide will walk you through the essential components of a website citation in MLA 9th edition, from identifying necessary elements to formatting them correctly in both your in-text citations and your Works Cited page. We will delve into the intricacies of citing various types of online content, including articles, web pages, and even specific parts of a website, ensuring you have the knowledge to navigate the digital citation landscape with confidence.

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Understanding the Core Components of an MLA Website Citation

When you **cite website mla 9th**, the goal is to provide enough information for your reader to find the exact source you consulted. The MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide emphasizes author, title, and container information to achieve this. For websites, the "container" is often the website itself, but it can also be a larger platform that hosts the content, like a database or an online journal. Identifying these key elements is the first step toward a correct citation.

The MLA 9th edition has streamlined some aspects of citation compared to previous editions, focusing on a core set of mandatory elements and optional ones that enhance clarity. For website citations, it's vital to recognize that not every website will have all the same components. However, understanding what is typically available and how to incorporate it is essential for accurate MLA 9th edition website citation practices.

The Structure of an MLA 9th Edition Website Citation

The MLA 9th edition utilizes a template approach for citations, meaning you fill in specific information into a general structure. This template helps ensure consistency across different types of sources. For websites, the general order of elements is designed to move from the most specific (the individual work) to the most general (the platform or website itself).

Key Elements in Order

The standard order for an MLA 9th edition website citation includes the following elements, presented in a specific sequence:

- Author's Last Name, First Name. (Or Name of Organization/Corporate Author).
- Title of the Source. (This is the title of the specific article, page, or document.)
- Title of the Container. (This is the title of the overall website, e.g., Wikipedia, The New York Times, etc.)
- Other Contributors (if applicable, e.g., editors, translators).
- Version (if applicable, e.g., edition number).
- Number (if applicable, e.g., volume or issue number for online journals).
- Publisher (if different from the website title or author).
- Publication Date (day, month, year).
- Location (page numbers, paragraph numbers, or URL).

Publisher and Publication Date

The publisher is typically the organization or company that produces the website. For instance, if you are citing an article from the official website of CNN, CNN would be the publisher. The publication date is crucial for establishing the currency of the information. Always look for the most specific date available, which might be a year, a month and year, or a full date including the day. If no publication date is evident, you can note this absence or use the copyright date if readily available.

URL and Access Date

In MLA 9th edition, URLs are generally included to help readers access the exact source. However, the guide now emphasizes that URLs are optional if the source is readily available through standard academic databases or if the URL is overly long or cumbersome. The access date, which indicates when you viewed the source, is also optional in MLA 9th edition unless the content is likely to change significantly over time or there is no stable publication date. When including a URL, it should be presented without hyperlinks and typically without the "http://" or "https://" prefix.

Crafting In-Text Citations for Websites

In-text citations in MLA 9th edition are brief references within your text that point readers to the full entry on your Works Cited page. For websites, these citations are generally straightforward, aiming to provide the author's last name and the page number where applicable.

The Author-Page Number Format

The most common format for in-text citations is the author's last name followed by the page number in parentheses. For example, if you are quoting or paraphrasing from an article by Jane Doe on page 45, your in-text citation would appear as (Doe 45).

However, many web pages do not have page numbers. In such cases, you can use the author's last name alone if it is readily identifiable. If the author is not explicitly named, you can use a shortened version of the title of the work. For instance, if an article is titled "The Future of Renewable Energy" and has no listed author, you might cite it as ("Future" 2). When citing an entire website without referring to a specific page or section, an in-text citation is usually not necessary, unless you are introducing the website for the first time in your paper.

Citing Indirect Sources

Sometimes, you might find information cited in one source that was originally published elsewhere. This is known as an indirect source. In MLA 9th edition, you should try to cite the original source if possible. If you must cite the indirect source, you would indicate this by using "qtd. in" (quoted in) before the citation for the source in which you found the information. For example: (qtd. in Smith 105).

The Works Cited Page: Formatting Website Entries

The Works Cited page is an alphabetized list of all the sources you have referenced in your paper. When you **cite website mla 9th**, each entry must follow a specific format to ensure clarity and consistency.

Alphabetical Order and Hanging Indents

Your Works Cited page should begin on a new page at the end of your paper. The title "Works Cited" should be centered at the top. All entries must be alphabetized by the first word of the citation, which is typically the author's last name or the title of the work if no author is provided. Each entry should use a hanging indent, meaning the first line of the citation is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines are indented by 0.5 inches.

Example of a Basic Website Citation Structure

Here's a common template for citing a web page or article from a website:

1. Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article or Page." *Title of Website*, Publisher (if different from website title), Publication Date, URL. Accessed Day Month Year (optional).

For example:

Smith, John. "The Importance of Digital Literacy." *EduGlobal News*, Global Education Foundation, 15 Oct. 2023, www.eduglobalnews.com/digital-literacy. Accessed 20 Oct. 2023.

Citing Websites with No Author

If a website entry has no discernible author, you begin the citation with the title of the article or page. The title should be enclosed in quotation marks. The rest of the citation follows as usual, starting with the title of the website.

For example:

"Understanding MLA 9th Edition." *Academic Writing Hub*, University Writing Center, 1 Dec. 2022, www.academicwritinghub.com/mla9. Accessed 25 Oct. 2023.

Citing Specific Types of Online Content

While the general principles for citing websites apply broadly, MLA 9th edition offers specific guidance for different kinds of online content to ensure accuracy and completeness. Understanding these nuances is key to mastering how to **cite website mla 9th** for diverse digital sources.

Online Journal Articles

When citing an article from an online journal, you will often have more detailed information available, such as volume and issue numbers. The format typically includes the author, article title, journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, publication date, and page numbers or a DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

Example:

Garcia, Maria. "The Evolution of E-books." *Journal of Digital Publishing*, vol. 12, no. 3, Fall 2021, pp. 45-62. doi:10.1080/23705678.2021.1234567.

Social Media and Blog Posts

Citing social media posts or blog entries requires careful attention to the platform and the nature of the content. You'll typically include the author (or username), the title of the post (in quotation marks), the name of the platform (italicized), the publication date, and the URL.

Example:

User @ScienceFacts. "Did you know? The average cloud weighs over a million pounds!" *Twitter*, 22 Oct. 2023, twitter.com/ScienceFacts/status/1234567890.

Online Videos

For online videos, you will cite the creator, the title of the video (in quotation marks), the name of the website where it was found (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, italicized), the uploader (if different from the creator), the publication date, and the URL.

Example:

Attenborough, David. "The Majesty of the Forest." *YouTube*, uploaded by National Geographic, 10 Jan. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYZ123.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid When Citing Websites

Even with clear guidelines, it's easy to fall into common traps when you **cite website mla 9th**. Awareness of these frequent mistakes can help you ensure your citations are accurate and professional.

Missing or Incorrect Author Information

One of the most common errors is failing to identify the author of a web page or article. Always look for an author's name. If it's an organization, use the organization's name as the author. If you genuinely cannot find an author or organization, begin with the title of the work.

Inconsistent Date Formatting

MLA 9th edition has specific rules for date formatting (day, month, year). Ensure you are consistent with this format, and do not use abbreviations for months unless they are listed in the MLA handbook. For example, use "Oct." for October, but spell out months like March.

Over-reliance on URLs without Context

While URLs are included, they shouldn't be the sole identifier. Ensure all other relevant information, like author, title, and publication date, is present. Additionally, remember that URLs are optional if the source is easily retrievable through standard academic databases.

Incorrectly Punctuating Titles

Titles of larger works (like the website itself) should be italicized, while titles of shorter works (like articles or pages) should be in quotation marks. Mixing these up is a frequent error.

Not Checking for Updates

The MLA style guide is periodically updated. While MLA 9th edition is the current standard, ensuring you are using the latest edition's guidelines is crucial to avoid citing based on outdated rules.

When to Use MLA 9th Edition for Website

Citations

The MLA 9th edition is primarily used in the humanities, including literature, languages, and cultural studies. If your academic discipline or your instructor has specified the use of MLA style, then you should adhere to its guidelines for all your research, including how to **cite website mla 9th**.

Academic Disciplines and Instructor Requirements

English and foreign language departments are the most common areas where MLA style is prevalent. However, other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences may also adopt MLA. Always confirm with your instructor or the style guide of your specific academic department whether MLA 9th edition is the required citation format for your assignments.

Beyond academic settings, MLA style might be used in professional writing contexts where clarity and a consistent method for attributing sources are important. The emphasis on author, title, and container provides a universal framework for locating information, making it a robust choice for various forms of scholarly communication.

FAQ

Q: What is the main difference in citing websites between MLA 8th and 9th editions?

A: The MLA 9th edition has slightly streamlined some aspects, particularly regarding the mandatory inclusion of URLs and access dates. While URLs are still generally included, they are considered optional if the source is readily available through academic databases or if the URL is excessively long. Access dates are also now optional unless the content is ephemeral or lacks a stable publication date. The core elements and order remain largely consistent.

Q: Do I need to include the publisher for every website citation in MLA 9th edition?

A: You should include the publisher in your MLA 9th edition website citation if the publisher is different from the author and the website's title. For example, if an organization publishes a report on its own website, you might not need to list the publisher separately if it's obvious. However, if a separate entity publishes content on a platform (e.g., an academic journal publisher hosting a journal on their platform), you would include that publisher.

Q: How do I cite a website that has no author and no

publication date?

A: If a website has neither an author nor a publication date, you will begin the citation with the title of the page or article (in quotation marks), followed by the title of the website (in italics), and then the URL. If there is no publication date, you can omit it. For an access date, it becomes more important to include if the content is likely to change or is not permanently archived, but it is still optional in MLA 9th edition.

Q: What is the MLA 9th edition rule for citing social media posts?

A: When citing social media posts in MLA 9th edition, you typically include the author (or username), the title of the post (in quotation marks), the name of the platform (in italics), the publication date, and the URL. For example: User @TechReviewer. "New Smartphone Camera Specs Revealed!" *Twitter*, 15 Nov. 2023, twitter.com/TechReviewer/status/1234567890.

Q: Should I include "https://" or "http://" when citing a URL in MLA 9th edition?

A: No, MLA 9th edition generally advises against including the "https://" or "http://" prefix when citing a URL. The URL should be presented as a plain text string. For example, instead of <https://www.example.com>, you would write www.example.com. This helps to avoid potential issues with automated formatting and makes the citation cleaner.

Q: How do I cite a PDF document found on a website in MLA 9th edition?

A: To cite a PDF document found on a website, treat it similarly to a web page. Include the author, the title of the PDF document (in quotation marks), the title of the website (in italics), the publisher (if applicable and different from the website title), the publication date, and the URL of the PDF file. You may also include an access date if it is appropriate for the source.

Q: What is considered the "container" when citing an online article from a major news website in MLA 9th edition?

A: When citing an online article from a major news website like The New York Times or BBC News, the "container" is the website itself. So, the title of the article will be in quotation marks, and the title of the news website will be in italics. The publisher is often implied by the website title, but if it's a distinct entity, it should be included.

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