

CREATE MLA CITATION 9TH EDITION

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON HOW TO CREATE MLA CITATION 9TH EDITION ENTRIES FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES. NAVIGATING THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) CITATION STYLE CAN SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE DECIPHERING A SECRET CODE, BUT WITH THE RIGHT APPROACH, IT BECOMES AN ACCESSIBLE SKILL FOR ANY STUDENT OR RESEARCHER. THIS GUIDE WILL BREAK DOWN THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF MLA 9TH EDITION, COVERING THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS THAT FORM THE FOUNDATION OF ANY CITATION, REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE TYPE. WE WILL THEN DELVE INTO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR CITING COMMON SOURCES SUCH AS BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND WEBSITES, ENSURING ACCURACY AND ADHERENCE TO THE LATEST GUIDELINES. UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PROPERLY ATTRIBUTE YOUR SOURCES NOT ONLY AVOIDS PLAGIARISM BUT ALSO STRENGTHENS YOUR ACADEMIC CREDIBILITY AND ALLOWS YOUR READERS TO EXPLORE YOUR RESEARCH FURTHER.

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UNDERSTANDING THE CORE COMPONENTS OF AN MLA 9TH EDITION CITATION

THE CORNERSTONE OF EFFECTIVE MLA CITATION, PARTICULARLY IN ITS 9TH EDITION, LIES IN RECOGNIZING AND CORRECTLY ASSEMBLING A SET OF CORE ELEMENTS. THINK OF THESE ELEMENTS AS THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF YOUR CITATION. THE MLA HANDBOOK EMPHASIZES A "CONTAINER" SYSTEM, WHERE EACH SOURCE IS VIEWED AS A CONTAINER HOLDING SMALLER CONTAINERS. THE GOAL IS TO IDENTIFY THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF INFORMATION ABOUT A SOURCE AND PRESENT THEM IN A CONSISTENT ORDER. THIS APPROACH MAKES IT EASIER TO ADAPT TO NEW TYPES OF SOURCES AS THEY EMERGE.

AT ITS HEART, THE MLA 9TH EDITION CITATION FORMAT PRIORITIZES INFORMATION THAT HELPS YOUR READER FIND THE SOURCE THEMSELVES. THE PRIMARY COMPONENTS YOU'LL CONSISTENTLY ENCOUNTER INCLUDE THE AUTHOR'S NAME, THE TITLE OF THE SOURCE, THE TITLE OF THE LARGER CONTAINER (LIKE A JOURNAL OR WEBSITE), THE PUBLISHER, AND THE DATE OF PUBLICATION. OTHER CRUCIAL ELEMENTS MIGHT INCLUDE THE VERSION OR EDITION, PAGE NUMBERS, AND LOCATION INFORMATION, SUCH AS A URL OR DOI. THE BEAUTY OF THE 9TH EDITION IS ITS FLEXIBILITY; WHILE THESE CORE ELEMENTS ARE USUALLY PRESENT, THE ORDER AND INCLUSION OF SOME MIGHT VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON THE SPECIFIC SOURCE TYPE.

IT'S ALSO VITAL TO UNDERSTAND THE PUNCTUATION THAT ACCOMPANIES THESE ELEMENTS. PERIODS TYPICALLY SEPARATE MAJOR COMPONENTS, WHILE COMMAS ARE USED FOR ELEMENTS WITHIN A LARGER COMPONENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AUTHOR'S NAME IS FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD, AND THE TITLE OF A SHORTER WORK (LIKE AN ARTICLE) IS ENCLOSED IN QUOTATION MARKS, WITH THE ENTIRE ENTRY FOR THAT ARTICLE FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD BEFORE THE CONTAINER'S TITLE. MASTERING THESE SUBTLE PUNCTUATION CUES IS KEY TO CREATING POLISHED AND ACCURATE MLA CITATIONS.

CITING BOOKS: NOVELS, TEXTBOOKS, AND MORE

WHEN YOU CREATE MLA CITATION 9TH EDITION ENTRIES FOR BOOKS, YOU'RE TYPICALLY DEALING WITH A SINGLE, SELF-CONTAINED WORK. THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS HERE REVOLVE AROUND THE AUTHOR, THE TITLE OF THE BOOK, AND PUBLICATION DETAILS. FOR A STANDARD PRINT BOOK, THE AUTHOR'S NAME WILL BE LISTED IN LAST NAME, FIRST NAME FORMAT. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY THE TITLE OF THE BOOK, ITALICIZED, AND THEN THE PUBLISHER AND THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION. IT'S THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD FOR MANY COMMON BOOKS.

BASIC BOOK CITATION

LET'S BREAK DOWN THE MOST COMMON BOOK FORMAT. YOU START WITH THE AUTHOR'S FULL NAME (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME), FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD. THEN COMES THE TITLE OF THE BOOK IN ITALICS, ENDING WITH A PERIOD. NEXT, YOU'LL LIST THE PUBLISHER, FOLLOWED BY A COMMA, AND THEN THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION, ENDING WITH A PERIOD. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WERE CITING A CLASSIC NOVEL LIKE *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* BY JANE AUSTEN, PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN CLASSICS IN 2003, IT WOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE: AUSTEN, JANE. *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*. PENGUIN CLASSICS, 2003.

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BOOKS

WHAT IF THE BOOK ISN'T WRITTEN BY A SINGLE AUTHOR YOU'RE CITING, BUT RATHER EDITED OR TRANSLATED? THE MLA 9TH EDITION HANDLES THIS GRACEFULLY. FOR AN EDITED BOOK, YOU BEGIN WITH THE EDITOR'S NAME(S) IN THE SAME LAST NAME, FIRST NAME FORMAT, BUT YOU ADD "ED." (OR "EDS." FOR MULTIPLE EDITORS) AFTER THEIR NAME. FOR A TRANSLATED WORK, YOU'D LIST THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE TRANSLATOR'S NAME, OFTEN PRECEDED BY "TRANSLATED BY." THE TITLE REMAINS ITALICIZED, AND YOU STILL INCLUDE THE PUBLISHER AND PUBLICATION YEAR.

BOOKS WITH MULTIPLE AUTHORS

WHEN A BOOK HAS TWO AUTHORS, YOU LIST THE FIRST AUTHOR'S NAME IN THE STANDARD LAST NAME, FIRST NAME FORMAT, FOLLOWED BY "AND" AND THEN THE SECOND AUTHOR'S NAME (FIRST NAME LAST NAME). IF THERE ARE THREE OR MORE AUTHORS, YOU LIST THE FIRST AUTHOR'S NAME (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME) AND THEN USE THE LATIN ABBREVIATION "ET AL.", WHICH MEANS "AND OTHERS." THIS KEEPS YOUR CITATIONS CONCISE WHILE STILL ACKNOWLEDGING ALL CONTRIBUTORS.

CITING PERIODICAL ARTICLES: JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS

CITING ARTICLES FROM PERIODICALS REQUIRES A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT APPROACH BECAUSE YOU'RE CITING A SMALLER WORK (THE ARTICLE) WITHIN A LARGER CONTAINER (THE PERIODICAL ITSELF). THIS IS WHERE THE "CONTAINER" CONCEPT BECOMES VERY CLEAR. THE MLA 9TH EDITION GUIDELINES ENSURE YOU CAN EASILY LOCATE THE SPECIFIC ARTICLE WITHIN THE PUBLICATION.

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES

FOR A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE, YOU START WITH THE AUTHOR'S NAME (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME), FOLLOWED BY THE TITLE OF THE ARTICLE IN QUOTATION MARKS. AFTER THE ARTICLE TITLE, YOU MOVE TO THE CONTAINER: THE JOURNAL TITLE, ITALICIZED. YOU THEN INCLUDE THE VOLUME NUMBER, ISSUE NUMBER, AND THE PUBLICATION DATE (USUALLY THE YEAR, BUT SOMETIMES THE SEASON OR MONTH AS WELL). FINALLY, YOU PROVIDE THE PAGE NUMBERS WHERE THE ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND. IF THE ARTICLE IS ONLINE, YOU WILL ALSO INCLUDE A DOI (DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER) IF AVAILABLE, OR THE URL.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

CITING MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOLLOWS A SIMILAR PATTERN BUT OFTEN INCLUDES A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE PUBLICATION RATHER THAN JUST THE YEAR. YOU'LL STILL LIST THE AUTHOR, THE ARTICLE TITLE IN QUOTATION MARKS, AND THEN THE MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER TITLE IN ITALICS. FOLLOWING THIS, YOU'LL PROVIDE THE DATE (DAY MONTH YEAR), AND THEN THE PAGE NUMBER(S). FOR ONLINE VERSIONS, YOU'LL INCLUDE THE URL.

CITING ONLINE RESOURCES: WEBSITES, BLOGS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE PRESENTS UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITATION. THE MLA 9TH EDITION OFFERS CLEAR GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE CITING WEBSITES, BLOG POSTS, AND EVEN SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES. THE KEY IS TO IDENTIFY THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT ALLOWS YOUR READER TO FIND THE CONTENT.

GENERAL WEBSITE CITATIONS

WHEN CITING A GENERAL WEBPAGE, YOU START WITH THE AUTHOR OR ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT, IF KNOWN. THEN COMES THE TITLE OF THE SPECIFIC PAGE OR ARTICLE, ENCLOSED IN QUOTATION MARKS. THE TITLE OF THE WEBSITE ITSELF FOLLOWS, ITALICIZED. YOU'LL THEN INCLUDE THE PUBLISHER OF THE WEBSITE (IF DIFFERENT FROM THE SITE TITLE) AND THE PUBLICATION DATE. CRUCIALLY, YOU WILL PROVIDE THE URL. WHILE THE MLA 9TH EDITION GENERALLY OMITTS THE DATE OF ACCESS, IT'S A GOOD PRACTICE TO NOTE IT FOR YOURSELF IN CASE OF WEBSITE CHANGES.

BLOG POSTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

CITING BLOG POSTS IS VERY SIMILAR TO CITING OTHER ARTICLES. YOU'LL INCLUDE THE AUTHOR (OR USERNAME), THE TITLE OF THE POST IN QUOTATION MARKS, THE NAME OF THE BLOG (ITALICIZED), THE PUBLISHER OF THE BLOG, AND THE DATE. FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, SUCH AS A TWEET OR A FACEBOOK POST, YOU'LL CITE THE AUTHOR (OR USERNAME), THE CONTENT OF THE POST (OFTEN IN QUOTATION MARKS OR DESCRIBED IF TOO LONG), THE PLATFORM'S NAME (ITALICIZED), THE PUBLISHER, AND THE DATE AND TIME. INCLUDING A URL IS ESSENTIAL FOR THESE ONLINE SOURCES.

OTHER COMMON SOURCE TYPES

BEYOND BOOKS AND ARTICLES, ACADEMIC RESEARCH OFTEN DRAWS FROM A VARIETY OF OTHER SOURCES, EACH WITH ITS OWN SPECIFIC CITATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE MLA 9TH EDITION GUIDELINES. BEING PREPARED TO CITE THESE LESS COMMON BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT MATERIALS WILL ENSURE YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY IS COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE.

CITING FILMS AND VIDEOS

WHEN CITING A FILM OR A VIDEO, YOU START WITH THE DIRECTOR, FOLLOWED BY THE TITLE OF THE FILM OR VIDEO IN ITALICS. THEN YOU MENTION THE PRODUCTION COMPANY AND THE YEAR OF RELEASE. IF YOU ARE CITING A SPECIFIC PART OF A VIDEO, LIKE A SCENE OR A SEGMENT, YOU WOULD PROVIDE ITS TITLE IN QUOTATION MARKS AFTER THE MAIN TITLE. FOR ONLINE VIDEOS, YOU WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE URL OR PLATFORM WHERE IT WAS ACCESSED.

CITING INTERVIEWS

WHETHER YOU CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW YOURSELF OR ARE CITING A PUBLISHED ONE, THE PROCESS IS SIMILAR. FOR A PERSONAL INTERVIEW, YOU'D LIST THE INTERVIEWEE'S NAME, FOLLOWED BY THE TITLE "INTERVIEW," AND THEN THE DATE THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED. IF IT'S A PUBLISHED INTERVIEW, YOU'D TREAT IT MORE LIKE AN ARTICLE CITATION, INCLUDING THE INTERVIEWER AS AUTHOR, THE INTERVIEW TITLE, AND THE PUBLICATION DETAILS OF THE CONTAINER.

CITING WORKS OF ART

CITING ARTWORK REQUIRES CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL. YOU'LL START WITH THE ARTIST'S NAME, FOLLOWED BY THE TITLE OF THE WORK IN ITALICS. THEN, YOU'LL INCLUDE DETAILS ABOUT THE MEDIUM USED, THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ARTWORK, AND ITS CURRENT LOCATION (MUSEUM, GALLERY, PRIVATE COLLECTION). IF YOU ARE REFERENCING AN IMAGE OF THE ARTWORK FOUND ONLINE, YOU'LL ALSO INCLUDE THE WEBSITE TITLE, PUBLISHER, AND URL.

FAQ

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MLA CITATION 9TH EDITION COMPARED TO THE 8TH EDITION?

A: THE MLA 9TH EDITION CONTINUES THE STREAMLINED, ELEMENT-BASED APPROACH INTRODUCED IN THE 8TH EDITION, WITH ITS PRIMARY FOCUS ON BUILDING CITATIONS FROM A LIST OF CORE COMPONENTS. WHILE THE FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURE REMAINS THE SAME, THE 9TH EDITION PROVIDES MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE ON CITING DIGITAL SOURCES AND EMPHASIZES THE USE OF DOIs AND URLS FOR ONLINE RESOURCES. IT ALSO REFINES SPECIFIC FORMATTING FOR CERTAIN SOURCE TYPES AND CLARIFIES BEST PRACTICES FOR A WIDER RANGE OF ACADEMIC MATERIALS.

Q: HOW DO I FORMAT THE AUTHOR'S NAME IN AN MLA 9TH EDITION CITATION?

A: FOR MOST SOURCES, THE AUTHOR'S NAME IS LISTED AS LAST NAME, FIRST NAME. FOR EXAMPLE, "SMITH, JOHN." IF THERE ARE TWO AUTHORS, THE FIRST IS LISTED AS LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, AND THE SECOND AS FIRST NAME LAST NAME (E.G., SMITH, JOHN, AND JANE DOE). FOR THREE OR MORE AUTHORS, YOU LIST THE FIRST AUTHOR AS LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, FOLLOWED BY THE ABBREVIATION "ET AL."

Q: DO I NEED TO INCLUDE THE DATE OF ACCESS FOR ONLINE SOURCES IN MLA 9TH EDITION?

A: GENERALLY, THE MLA 9TH EDITION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE DATE OF ACCESS FOR ONLINE SOURCES. THE FOCUS IS ON PROVIDING ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR THE READER TO FIND THE SOURCE THEMSELVES, WHICH INCLUDES THE PUBLICATION DATE. HOWEVER, IF THE CONTENT OF A WEBSITE IS LIKELY TO CHANGE FREQUENTLY, INCLUDING A DATE OF ACCESS CAN BE HELPFUL. IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

Q: HOW DO I CITE A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR IN MLA 9TH EDITION?

A: IF A SOURCE HAS NO AUTHOR, YOU BEGIN THE CITATION WITH THE TITLE OF THE WORK. IF THE TITLE IS STANDALONE (LIKE A BOOK), IT'S ITALICIZED. IF IT'S PART OF A LARGER WORK (LIKE AN ARTICLE), IT'S PLACED IN QUOTATION MARKS. THE REST OF THE CITATION FOLLOWS THE STANDARD FORMAT FOR THAT SOURCE TYPE.

Q: WHAT IS A DOI AND WHEN SHOULD I USE IT IN MLA 9TH EDITION CITATIONS?

A: A DOI (DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER) IS A UNIQUE ALPHANUMERIC STRING ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY A DIGITAL OBJECT, SUCH AS AN ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL. YOU SHOULD USE A DOI IN YOUR MLA 9TH EDITION CITATIONS WHENEVER IT IS AVAILABLE FOR AN ONLINE SOURCE, PARTICULARLY FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES. IT IS TYPICALLY PRESENTED AS A URL THAT BEGINS WITH "HTTPS://DOI.ORG/".

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