Citations Based on *MLA Handbook: Eighth Edition*

In April 2016 the Modern Language Association published the *MLA Handbook: Eighth Edition*. The new style allows writers flexibility to decide the most helpful information to guide their readers back to sources. Certain core information is essential while other information is optional.

The core questions asked about each source are:

1. Who is the author of the source?
2. What is the title of the source?
3. How was the source published?
4. Where did you find the source?
5. When was the source published? (MLA 13)

MLA has provided a template to help evaluate these questions and construct the citations. Core elements are important to include when available. If they are not available, then they should simply be omitted. For instance, a source without an author would start by listing the title, or a source without a publisher, such as a blog, would skip that element. It is recommended that the URL (web address) or DOI (digital object identifier) be included as a location element for any source on the Internet, *unless your instructor directs you to omit it*.

Containers are the various ways content is published and/or accessed. A container might be a literature anthology, a scholarly journal, a set of published web pages, or the NetFlix collection where a film is viewed. Note that punctuation is streamlined with periods after the author, title, and at the end of each container. Commas are used between other parts of the citation. The elements are more thoroughly defined in the handbook, but the basics appear below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Author.</strong></th>
<th>Last name first. Second and third authors can be natural name order. More than three authors may list the first author followed by the abbreviation “et al.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Source.</strong></td>
<td>Use quotations for chapters, essays, poems, or short stories in another book or use italics for a longer work such as a play or novel appearing within an anthology.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Container 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title of container,</strong></th>
<th>Often the title of an anthology, essay collection, periodical, or host website (in italics)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other contributors,</strong></td>
<td>Edited by, translated by, performed by, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version,</strong></td>
<td>Often known as the edition in print sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number,</strong></td>
<td>Volume and issue numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher,</strong></td>
<td>As identified in print or online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication date,</strong></td>
<td>When the content was most recently published or updated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
URLs and DOIs may be omitted at the discretion of the instructor. Each writer may decide whether additional elements are needed for clarity as mentioned on pages 50-53 of *MLA Handbook*.

**Print Sources**

**Book with one author:**


(Note: if the city of publication is needed for clarity, it may be added before the publisher.)

**Print book with two authors:**


**Print book with more than three authors:**


**An individual work in an anthology** requires more elements as charted on the template below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author.</th>
<th>Rumi, Jalaloddin.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of Source.</td>
<td>“The Question.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other contributors, Translated by Coleman Barks,

Title of Container, The Norton Anthology of World Literature,

Other Contributors, general editor Martin Puchner,

Version, 3rd ed.,

Number, vol. B,

Publisher, W.W. Norton,

Publication date, 2012,

Location, pp. 352-53.

The resulting citation looks like this:


(Note: an additional element was added for the translator of the individual poem, immediately after that title. The translator of an entire book would have been included as another contributor along with the editor[s] of the entire book.)

**Work in an Anthology:**


(Note: the date the story was originally written is included after that title because it was considered helpful information for the reader.)


(Note: for this play in an anthology, italics are used for the title rather than quotation marks. The anthology title is also italicized.)

**Chapter or entry from a Reference Book or Set of Books:**


**Newspaper Article**

Magazine Article


Scholarly Journal Article


Government Publication


Database Sources

Newspaper Article:


Dobbins, James. “Time for a Do-over on the Brexit Vote.” USA Today, 7 July 2016, p. 7A. Academic Search Complete, web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=-3d8cd750-3f5d-428f-b5a9-835b0efa8139%40sessionmgr4004&hid=4114&bdata=-JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbgI22ZSzY29wZTIzaXRl#AN=J0E272804964016&db=a9h.

Magazine Article:


Scholarly Journal Article:


Ebooks


Chapter/Article/Story in an Online Book:


Entry within an Online Reference Book

Opposing Viewpoints:


Reprinted Sources:


Legal Documents:


Government Documents:

Random (Non-Database) Web Sources

Article from Website:


Newspaper or Magazine Article on Web:


Online Encyclopedia:


Multi-Media Sources


Remember that all MLA Works Cited pages are double spaced.