

## MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Summary

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the MLA style book is intended to simplify the citation process. Rather than requiring different kinds of information for different kinds of sources, the new edition requires the same kind of information for all sources. There is a general format for including this information, but not all citations will require all of the information in the format.

This summary of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition highlights the features of the new format that students need to use the most.

### Fundamentals of an MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Works Cited Entry

In MLA 8, every source type follows the same format. Books, websites, periodicals, videos, photographs, and all other types of sources use this same standard format.

#### **The Core Elements**

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the MLA Handbook requires researchers to locate “core elements” (facts common to most sources) in order to create their citations (in this order):

Core Elements for MLA 8 Works Cited Entries	
Element	Definition
1. Author.	writer of the document you are citing
2. Title of the source.	document you are citing - book, article, video, speech
3. Title of the container,	source of the document - anthology, newspaper, website, conference
4. Other contributors,	editors, directors, translators, narrators, performers
5. Version,	edition [updated, expanded, 7th, etc.], cut [film], version [King James]
6. Numbers,	volume, number - vol. 1, no.5
7. Publisher,	company responsible for producing the source for public consumption
8. Publication date,	date that the source/container was published
9. Location.	page number, chapter, section, website

Each core element in this list is followed by the punctuation mark that should appear after it in the citation, unless it is the final piece, in which case it should end with a period.

**Standard format for core elements for an MLA 8 works cited entry:**

Author. Title of the source. Title of the container, Other contributors, Version, Numbers, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Ellingsen, Eric. "In the Listenings: The Gold Waxes." *World Literature Today*, vol. 89, no. 1, 2015, pp. 30-32. JSTOR, doi:10.7588/worllitetoda.89.1.0030.

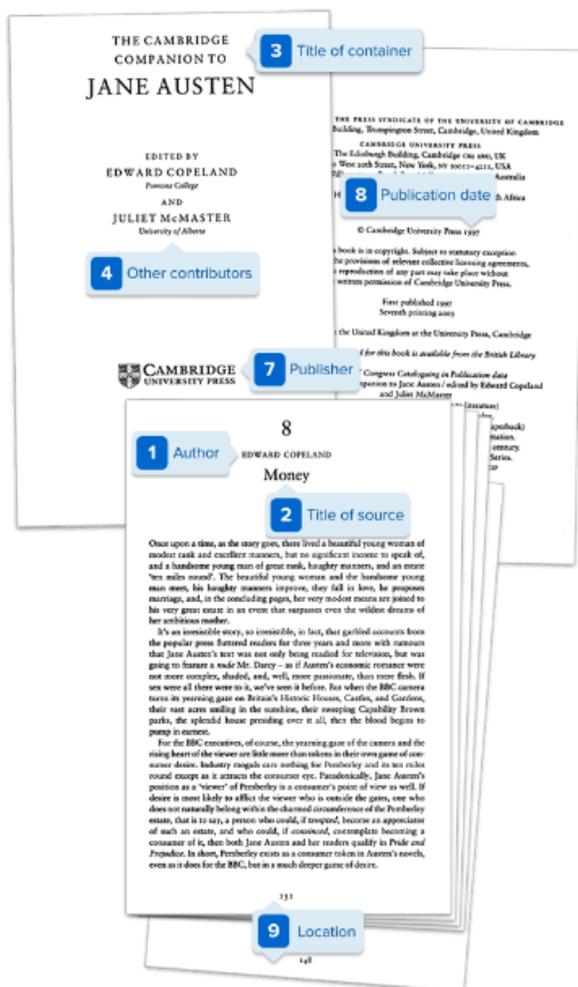
"Means to an End." *NCIS: New Orleans*, season 2, episode 19, CBS, 22 Mar. 2016. TV.com, [www.tv.com/shows/ncis-new-orleans/means-to-an-end-3355512/](http://www.tv.com/shows/ncis-new-orleans/means-to-an-end-3355512/).

(Source: <https://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-8/mla-7-vs-mla-8/>)

Following are examples of how to find the core elements in a few kinds of sources and how to use them in works cited entries. These are taken from <https://www.style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide>.

## A Source in One Container

## An Essay in a Book Collection



- 1 Author.  
Copeland, Edward.
  - 2 Title of source.  
"Money."
- CONTAINER 1**
- 3 Title of container,  
*The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*,
  - 4 Other contributors,  
edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster,
  - 5 Version,
  - 6 Number,
  - 7 Publisher,  
Cambridge UP,
  - 8 Publication date,  
1997,
  - 9 Location.  
pp. 131-48.

## FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

Copeland, Edward. "Money." *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48.

## A Source in One Container

### A Video on a Web Site

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the NASA website page: [www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html). The page features a video player with a play button and a title card that reads "Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!". Below the video is a "MORE VIDEOS" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the NASA logo and contact information.

Callouts on the screenshot identify the following elements:

- 9 Location:** The URL in the browser's address bar.
- 2 Title of source:** The title of the video, "Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!".
- 3 Title of container:** The page title, "NASA's Journey to Mars - Videos".
- 7 Publisher:** The text "National Aeronautics and Space Administration".
- 8 Publication date:** The text "Page Last Updated: July 30, 2015".
- 4 Other contributors:** The text "Page Editor: Sarah Loff" and "NASA Official: Brian Dunbar".

**1** Author.

**2** Title of source.

"Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!"

#### CONTAINER 1

**3** Title of container,

NASA's Journey to Mars: Videos,

**4** Other contributors,

edited by Sarah Loff,

**5** Version,

**6** Number,

**7** Publisher,

National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

**8** Publication date,

30 July 2015,

**9** Location.

[www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html).

#### FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

"Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!" *NASA's Journey to Mars: Videos*, edited by Sarah Loff, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 30 July 2015, [www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html).

## A Source in Two Containers

## A Journal Article Retrieved from a Database

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an article from EBSCOhost. The article title is "Between Image and Word, Color and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*". The author is Jutta Lorensen. The article is published in *African American Review*, volume 40, number 3, in 2006, on pages 571-86. The page includes a sidebar with navigation options and a main content area with the article text. Numbered callouts (1-9) are placed over the page to identify key source information: 1 (Author), 2 (Title of source), 3 (Title of container), 4 (Other contributors), 5 (Version), 6 (Number), 7 (Publisher), 8 (Publication date), and 9 (Location).

1 Author.  
Lorensen, Jutta.

2 Title of source.  
"Between Image and Word, Color, and Time:  
Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*."

## CONTAINER 1

3 Title of container,  
*African American Review*,

4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,  
vol. 40, no. 3,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,  
2006,

9 Location.  
pp. 571-86.

## CONTAINER 2

3 Title of container,  
*EBSCOhost*,

4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,

9 Location.  
search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?  
direct=true&db=f5h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

## FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color, and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

Because of this fundamental change, the works cited list entries produced by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> editions are different. Below are differences that might be overlooked by writers making the transition from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Numbers in parentheses refer to pages in the MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition manual. This summary contains examples from those pages.

## ABBREVIATIONS

---

- Common terms in the works cited list like *editor*, *edited by*, *translator*, and *review of* are no longer abbreviated. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition provides a shorter list of recommended abbreviations (96–97).

Common MLA 8 Abbreviations			
Term	Abbr.	Term	Abbr.
chapter	ch.	page, pages	p., pp.
department	dept.	paragraph	par., pars.
edition	ed.	quoted in	qtd. in
for example	e.g.	revised	rev.
and others	et al.	section	sec.
and so forth	etc.	translation	trans.
that is	i.e.	University	U
number	no.	University Press	UP
Press (academic)	P	volume	vol.

Publisher Abbreviations  
Omit business words (Company, Corporation, etc.). Use abbreviations at left for “University” and “Press”:  
U of Chicago P.  
See “Publishers” below.

Bible Abbreviations  
Generally, follow the abbreviations of books in the index of the Bible you are using.

## AUTHORS

---

- When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is given. It is followed by *et al.* (22). (Previously, the omission of coauthors was limited to sources with four or more authors and was presented as an option.):

Burdick, Anne, **et al.** *Digital\_Humanities*. MIT P, 2012.

## BOOKS AND OTHER PRINTED WORKS

---

- Page numbers in the works cited list are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.*, but not in in-text citations (46).

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. “On Monday of Last Week.” *The Thing around Your Neck*, Alfred A Knopf, 2009, **pp. 74-94**.

- For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations (51):
  - For books published before 1900, replace the publisher’s name with the city of publication.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret*.  
Translated by John Oxenford, new ed., London, 1875.

- If a publisher has offices in more than one country, place the city of publication before the publisher's name.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. London, Bloomsbury, 1997.

- Include the city of publication if it might help the reader locate a text released by a publisher outside one's country.

## JOURNALS

---

- Issues of scholarly journals are now identified with, for instance, "vol. 64, no. 1" rather than "64.1" (39–40).

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." PMLA, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

- If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year (45).

Belton, John. "Painting by the Numbers: The Digital Intermediate." PMLA, vol. 61 no. 3, Spring 2008, pp. 58-65.

## ONLINE WORKS

---

- The URL (without http:// or https://) is now normally given for a Web source. Angle brackets are not used around it (48, 110).

*Visualizing Emancipation*. Directed by Scott Nesbit and Edward L. Ayers, [dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation](http://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation).

- The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is preferred over URLs (110).

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

- Citing the date when an online work was consulted is now optional (53). Date of access may be useful if there is no production or publication date for the information.

"Under the Gun." *Pretty Little Liars*, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. Hulu, [www.hulu.com/watch/511318](http://www.hulu.com/watch/511318). Accessed 23 July 2013.

- Placeholders for unknown information like *n.d.* (“no date”) are no longer used. If facts missing from a work are available in a reliable external resource, they are cited in square brackets (111). Otherwise, they are simply omitted.

Chan, Evans. “Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.” *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, [May 2000]. *Project*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

## PUBLISHERS

---

- Publishers’ names are now given in full, except that business words like *Company (Co.)* are dropped and, for academic presses, the abbreviations *U*, *P*, and *UP* are still used (97). See “Abbreviations” above.
- A forward slash (/) now separates the names of co-publishers (108).  
Pennsylvania State UP / Bibliographical Society of America
- Some kinds of publications don’t require listing a publisher’s name (42):  
periodicals (journal, newspapers, magazines), a work published by its author or editor, a website with a name that is the same as its publisher, a web site not involved in the publication of the material it presents (e.g. YouTube, databases).
- When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization’s name is now given only once, usually as the publisher (25). No author is stated.  
*Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America.* National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004.

## MISCELLANEOUS

---

- Full publication information is now given for widely used reference works. Page-number spans are given for articles in alphabetically arranged reference books in print. In other words, reference works are treated like other works and are no longer subject to exceptions.
- The medium of publication is no longer stated, except when it is needed for clarity (52).  
*Fresh Air.* Narrated by Terry Gross, National Public Radio, 20 May 2008. Transcript.

## Fundamentals of an MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### In-Text Citation

The principles behind in-text citations in MLA style are mostly unchanged. A few details have been added or clarified, however:

- For time-based media like video, times are now cited in the text (57).  
     Buffy’s promise that “there’s not going to be any incidents like at my old school” is obviously not one on which she can follow through (“*Buffy*” 00:03:16-17).
- Use *my trans.* to identify the writer’s translation of a non-English quotation (90–91).  
     Sévigné responds to praise of her much admired letters by acknowledging that “there is nothing stiff about them” (*my trans.*; 489).
- When long titles have to be included in a parenthetical citation, shorten them by using just the initial noun phrase of the title (without any beginning article), or the first word of the title. If the title consists of only a noun phrase, it cannot be shortened (117–18).

Shortening a Title for In-text Citations		
	Original Title (Works Cited)	Shortened Title (In-text)
Noun Phrase	<i>The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion</i>	<i>Double vision</i>
First Word	"Under the Volcano"	"Under"

- There is no punctuation between the author’s name and page number, but various punctuation marks are used when different items are combined in one parenthetical citation (126–27):
  - Two sources (Baron 194; Jacobs 55)
  - Different locations within one source (Baron 194, 200, 197-98)
  - Multiple works by the same author (Glück, “Erzatz Thought” **and** “For”)  
     (Glück, “Erzatz Thought,” “For,” **and** Foreword)
  - How you altered the text (Baron 194; **my emphasis**)
  - Location other than page number (Chan, **par.** 41)
  - Page number with part references (185; ch. 13, sec. 2)
- Ways of formatting citations in research projects other than traditional papers are suggested (127–28).
  - PowerPoint: Add citations on the slides and a works cited slide at the end.
  - Video: Overlay content information at the bottom of the screen; add documentation in end credits.
  - Website: Provide links to source material; add a works cited list as an appendix.

## Fundamentals of MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Other Aspects of Writing

Following are new points that concern the writing in a research project:

- When the title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) begins with an article (*A, An, The*), the article is now treated as part of the title: the article is italicized and its first letter capitalized. For example, the handbook previously specified “the *Georgia Review*” in text and “*Georgia Review*” in the works cited list but now specifies “*The Georgia Review*” in all contexts.
- For works in a language not written in the Latin alphabet, writers must choose between giving titles and quotations in romanization or in the language’s writing system (74, 91). The key is to be consistent. Check *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *ALA-LC Romanization Tables*.
- If a block quotation of prose contains internal paragraphing, the first line of the quotation now begins without a paragraph indentation, even if one is present in the source. Subsequent paragraphs in the block quote are indented (77).

- In *Moll Flanders*, Defoe follows the picaresque tradition by using a pseudoautobiographical narration:

First ¶ not indented	→	My true name is so well known in the records, or registers, at Newgate and in the Old Bailey, and there are some things of such consequence still depending there relating to my particular conduct, that it is not to be expected I should set my name or the account of my family to this work. . . .
----------------------	---	---

Second ¶ indented	→	It is enough to tell you, that . . . some of my worst comrades, who are out of the way of doing me harm . . . know me by the name of Moll Flanders. . . . (1)
-------------------	---	---