

# Elon University Center for Writing Excellence Citation Style Guides

## MLA Style, 9th Edition (2021)

Last updated: February 7, 2022

**General Information:** MLA is a citation style that is used across many disciplines, most commonly in the humanities. Unlike other citation styles, MLA recognizes that there are increasingly different ways of retrieving information and sources, so the guidelines describe the order in which sources should be cited across all mediums: Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

### Journal Article:

**Model:** Last name, First name MI. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, vol. #, no. #, Publisher, publication date, location.

**Works Cited Example:** Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, [www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362](http://www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362).

### Book:

**Model:** Last name, First name MI. *Title of Source*. Version, Publisher, publication date, page numbers.

**Works Cited Example:** Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

### Webpage:

**Model:** Last name, First name MI. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Publisher, publication date, URL.

**Works Cited Example:** "Social Care and Support Guide." *National Health Service*, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/>.

MLA indicates how to cite by source type, but also has a universal system of citation. Below is information about how to cite each individual part of the citation itself, regardless of source type.

### Author:

**Model:** Last name, First name MI.

**Example:** Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture*. Routledge, 1994.

### Title of Source:

**Model for Books:** *Title of Source*.

**Example for Books:** Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

**Model for Webpages or Journal Articles:** "Title of Source."

**Example for Webpages or Journal Articles:** Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

### Title of Container:

Unlike earlier versions of MLA, the 9th edition refers to "containers," which are the larger wholes in which the source is located, such as a collection of poems or a website with numerous postings.

**Model:** *Title of Container*,

**Example:** Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*, edited by Tobias Wolff, Vintage, 1994, pp. 306-07.

### **Other Contributors:**

*Include other contributors such as editors, illustrators, translators, etc. if their contribution to the source is relevant to your research.*

**Model:** Past tense verb by Other Contributors,

**Example:** Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

### **Version:**

**Model:** Version,

**Example:** Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.

### **Number:**

**Model:** vol. #, no. #,

**Example:** Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, [www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362](http://www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362). Accessed 20 May 2009.

### **Publisher:**

**Model:** Publisher Name.

**Example:** Klee, Paul. *Twittering Machine*. 1922. Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Artchive*, [www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering\\_machine.jpg.html](http://www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering_machine.jpg.html). Accessed November 2021.

### **Publication date:**

*Note that some sources may have been published on more than one date, such as online versions of an original source. Use the date that is most relevant to your research. Depending on the relevancy of the date, you may cite the whole date or just the year.*

**Model:** Year,

**Example:** "Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

### **Location:**

*In an essay, book, or article, you should include the page numbers. In an online source, include the DOI or URL, and the Access Date if needed. When citing a physical object, identify the place of location.*

**Model:** Location.

**Example of Page Numbers:** Adiche, Chimamanda Ngozi. "On Monday of Last Week." *The Thing around Your Neck*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2009, pp. 74-94.

**Example of URL:** Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2000, pp. 595-600, [wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00-0607\\_article](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00-0607_article). Accessed 8 Feb. 2009.

**Example of Physical Object:** Matisse, Henri. *The Swimming Pool*. 1952, Museum of Modern Art, New York.