MLA 8th Edition Quick Guide

How do I format the paper?

- Use 1" margins.
- Double-space the entire paper.
- Create a header with your last name and the page number in the top right corner of every page.
- On the top left side of page one, list…

Your name	Mona Sample
Your instructor's name	Dr. Basena
The name of the course	English 101
The date	18 Feb 2020

- On the next line, type your title, centered, with all major words capitalized

How do I structure my in-text citations?

Provide the tag (the first thing in the works cited entry – usually the author's last name) and the page number (if applicable). No punctuation or abbreviations are necessary.

The tag and page number can both go in a parenthetical at the end of the citation.

> Example of a paraphrase or summary: Research shows that the more a stranger looks like us, the more likely we are to remember his or her face (Hertz 34).

Or you can incorporate the tag into your text and simply provide the page number in an end parenthetical.

> Example of a direct quote: Hertz found that "facial memory is directly proportionate to the similarity between the subject and object's own facial features" (34).

How do I format my Works Cited?

- Include a separate Works Cited page at the end of your paper.
- Write "Works Cited" centered at the top.
- List all sources used in your paper.
- Order them alphabetically.
- Double-space the entire page.
- Use hanging indentation (indent every line but the 1st of each entry).

The Nine Elements in Every Works Cited Entry

In any works cited entry, you will provide the following information (if applicable) in this order:

Author's Last Name, First Name. Title of Source. Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

This is how you should format **all** works cited entries, whether they are print, electronic, audio-visual, or any other form of media. For more about each of these nine elements, see the back of this handout.

The Nine Elements in Every Works Cited Entry

1. **Author.** - If you have two authors, provide the first author using the Last, First format, and then add "and" followed by the second author's first and last name. If there are three or more authors, provide the first, followed by a comma and "et al"
   Example (two authors): Johnson, Marie, and Dalton Jones.
   Example (three or more authors): Jamison, Jolene, et al.

2. **Title of source.** - Capitalize the first letter of all major words. If this is a stand-alone text (like a book) italicize it; if it's a smaller work insider a larger publication (like an article in a journal), surround it in quotation marks instead.
   Example (book): *The Work of Writing*
   Example (chapter in a book): "The Rise of the Graduate-Focused Writing Center"

3. **Title of container,** If it was published inside a larger container (like a book, a web page, a television series, etc.) list that title here.
   Example (journal): *The Writing Lab Newsletter*
   Example (book): *Writing Centers and the New Racism: A Call for Sustainable Dialogue and Change*

4. **Other contributors,** - If there were any other contributors to the text (editors, translators, foreword-writers, etc.) tell us here.
   Example (editor): Edited by Samantha Patterson,
   Example (annotation and forward): Annotated and Foreword by Latisha Wood,

5. **Version,** - if the source is listed as a particular version or edition, say so here.
   Example (edition): 3rd ed.

6. **Number** - if the source is part of a numbered sequence, say so here.
   Example: vol. 4, no. 2

7. **Publisher,** - the name of the publisher(s) if applicable. This element is not necessary for periodicals, websites whose names are the same as the publisher, self-published works, or websites that don't actually publish the material (such as YouTube or WordPress).

8. **Publication date,** - Usually, we only put the year here, but you should provide a more specific date if it makes sense to do so (i.e. if you're citing a breaking news story). If the work has multiple publication dates, use the one most relevant to your work.
   Example: 12 August 2018

9. **Location**. – The location tells us where to find the source you're citing. For a chapter in a book or an article in a journal, the location will be a range of page numbers. (If you're citing the whole book and not a specific section in it, then the location is not necessary.) In a website, it will be the URL. If it's a physical object (like a national monument), then provide its physical location.
   Example (article in a journal or chapter in a book): pp. 123-139.
   Example (website): owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation

If any of these pieces of information is not applicable or not available, simply skip it and move on to the next element.

Couldn't find the answer here? Find out more owl.purdue.edu or in *The Little Seagull Handbook*.

The Writing Center – Smith Vidal Literacy and Language Center – MLK 204 – 301-860-3720
Updated 2/18/2020