Your Writing Resource

KU Writing Center
What’s new?

• MLA 8th edition is now a few guidelines, rather than a huge list of specific rules.
• MLA has changed to fit our ever-changing sources (mobile applications, websites, video streaming sites)
• MLA has changed to make citation more accessible to a larger audience
• Writers get more choice in what information their specific audience needs
You can now use the same format for every type of source!
What Do I Need to Cite?

- Author.
- Title of source.
- Title of container,
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location.

Pay attention to the punctuation used here – this is the punctuation you will use in the citation!
Containers

MLA has added "containers" to citations, to help writers remember the order in which to list elements of the citation.

Containers are just what they sound like, they are the larger whole that holds or contains the source.
Elements

• “Elements” refer to author, title of source, title of container, version, publisher
  • Basically what gives the reader important information on where you found the source
  • Note: you can now use online handles in place of author’s name or account owner’s name.
    • @egoraptor vs. Arin Hanson
Location

• No longer refers to location where the source was published

• Refers to page number, URL or DOI (digital object identifier)
  • Use DOI, if available
  • Do not use http:// in works cited
  • Example: www.twitter.com vs. http://www.twitter.com
    • You do not need to use a page number in the in-text citations for internet sources.
    • Just use website name (CNN.com vs. www.cnn.com)
What is the same?

• Plagiarism:
  • Same rules still apply. Check out resources on writing.ku.edu, owl.english.purdue.edu, and mla.org

• Overall formatting of works cited page and in-text citations.
  • Works cited still listed in alphabetical order, with every line after first line of each citation indented.
    • **Example:**
  • In-text citation is still author and page number, in most cases.
    • **Example:** Some artwork features a Western motif (Larson 26).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element 1: Authors</th>
<th>Who wrote this? How many authors wrote this?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Element 2: Title of Source</td>
<td>If this does not have a larger container it fits it, <em>italicize</em>. If not, use “quotes.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 3: Containers</td>
<td>Usually the name of the journal, poetry book, or collection in which you can find the source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 4: Other Contributors</td>
<td>Editor, illustrator, translator, director, performer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 5: Versions</td>
<td>Version of a movie (unrated), book (Collector’s ed., Kindle ed.), song, (explicit, radio edit, live), volumes (vol. 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 6: Numbers</td>
<td>Episode (season 7, <strong>episode 5</strong>, volume number; vol. 5, <em>num. 3</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 7: Publisher</td>
<td>Publisher of the source, if more than one publisher separate with a slash (U of Michigan P/Stylus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 8: Publication Date</td>
<td>Use day month year format (7 May 1986); abbreviate all months except May, June, July.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 9: Location</td>
<td>Refers to page number (p. – single page, pp. range of pages), DOI (doi: 10.1016/j.puhe.2016.01.004), or URL, (writing.ku.edu)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice

• Grab your handout and a partner and use the new version of MLA to complete the citation exercises. (5 minutes)

• Now try it with one (or more) of the sources you are using for your paper. (5 minutes)
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