MLA STYLE, 9ᵀᴴ EDITION: CITATIONS AND REFERENCES

This handout is a **summary** of current MLA Style citation guidelines. With it, we aim to answer the questions most frequently asked by Saint Paul University students. We have also included examples of the types of sources most used by students. However, this handout cannot address all citation matters. For further examples and more comprehensive explanations, please consult the resources listed at the end of the document.

A handout summarizing MLA's main **paper formatting guidelines** (font, spacing, margins, page numbers, footnotes, title page, etc.) is also available on the Writing Centre's webpage and in the Citation Style Research Guide.

General format of in-text citations is as follows: (last name of author page number); note the absence of punctuation between the two elements. You can also use the author's name in your sentence, immediately followed by the page number in parentheses. Examples of both types of in-text citations are provided throughout this handout.

Example: (Lowery and Burrow 341) *or* Lowery and Burrow (341)

Important notes

- **Each** in-text citation must have a **corresponding entry** in the Works Cited section.
- Whenever a precise date is required (day month year) in a works-cited-list entry, **abbreviate the names of months** that are longer than four letters.
- The **date of access of an online source is optional**, **except** when the source's publication date is unavailable or unclear. In that case, include it at the end of the entry. Ex.: Accessed 23 Nov. 2019.
- For online works, a DOI, if provided, is preferred to a URL.
  - If providing a DOI, add *https://doi.org/* before the string of numbers if it is not already there.
  - If providing a URL, omit the *https://* or *http://*.
- If a source has **more than one author**, use the examples provided under "Book" and then combine with the appropriate document type format.
  - If a source has **two authors**, pay attention to the order of first and last names in the works-cited-list entry: Last name, first name of first author and first name and last name of second author. (See example below.)
  - If a source has **three or more authors**, name the first author only, followed with "et al." This applies to both in-text citations and works-cited-list entries. (See example below.)
- If the source has **no explicit page numbers**:
  - Include paragraph numbers **if provided**: (Nguyen, par. 8)
  - Include chapters or section headings if provided: (Nguyen, ch. 3) *or* (Nguyen, sec. "Background")
  - Include line numbers if provided: (Nguyen, line 31)
  - Omit altogether if no other obvious subdivision is provided: (Nguyen)

In this handout:
Book (print)
E-book
Chapter of an edited book
Translated book

BOOK (print)

One author

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Publisher, year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Israel, Martin. *The Spirit of Counsel: Spiritual Perspectives in the Counselling Process*. Hodder & Stoughton, 1983.
In-text citation	(Israel 63) *or* Israel (63)

Two authors

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of First Author, and First Name Last Name of Second Author. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Publisher, year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Chan, Wendy, and Dorothy Chunn. *Racialization, Crime, and Criminal Justice in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2014.
In-text citation	(Chan and Chunn 38) *or* Chan and Chunn (121)

Three or more authors

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of First Author, et al. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Publisher, year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Cummins, Paul, et al. *Leadership in Sports Coaching: A Social Identity Approach*. Routledge, 2017.
In-text citation	(Cummins et al. 102) *or* Cummins et al. (112-113)

E-BOOK

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year. Database Name, DOI or URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Roberson, Cliff. *Juvenile Justice: Theory and Practice*. Routledge, 2010. *Taylor & Francis eBooks Complete*, https://doi.org/10.4324/9781439813775.
In-text citation	(Roberson 97) *or* Roberson (112-113)

CHAPTER OF AN EDITED BOOK

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book*, edited by First Name Last Name of Editor, Publisher, year, page range of chapter.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Katz, Jerrold J. "The Realm of Meaning." *Communication, Language, and Meaning: Psychological perspectives*, edited by George A. Miller, Basic Books, 1973, pp. 36-48.
In-text citation	(Katz 38-39) *or* Katz (38-39)

TRANSLATED BOOK

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Book*. Translated by First Name Last Name of Translator, Publisher, year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archeology of Medical Perception*. Translated by Alan Mark Sheridan, Routledge, 2003.
In-text citation	(Foucault 39) *or* Foucault (108)

JOURNAL ARTICLE

From a database with a DOI

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Article." *Journal Name*, vol. XX, no. XX, year, page range of article. *Database Name*, DOI.

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	Lowery, Patrick G., and John D. Burrow. "Concentrated Disadvantage, Racial Disparities, and Juvenile Institutionalization within the Context of Attribution Theory." *Criminal Justice Studies*, vol. 32, no. 4, 2019, pp. 330-55. *Taylor & Francis Online*, https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2019.1660964.
In-text citation	(Lowery and Burrow 334) *or* Lowery and Burrow (336-37)

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	Rodgers, Rachel F., et al. "A Network Approach to Eating Disorder Symptomatology: Do Desire for Thinness and Fear of Gaining Weight Play Unique Roles in the Network?" *Body Image*, vol. 27, 2018, pp. 1-9. *Elsevier ScienceDirect Journals Complete*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bodyim.2018.07.004.
In-text citation	(Rodgers et al. 8) *or* Rodgers et al. (8)

From an online journal's website, no DOI

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Article." *Journal Name*, vol. XX, no. XX, year, page range of article if available, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Bonn, Maria, et al. "Innovation Through Collaboration in Humanities Research." *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, vol. 15, no. 15, 2021, www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/15/4/000597/000597.html.
In-text citation	(Bonn et al., par. 8) *or* Bonn et al. (par. 8)

NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, OR NEWS WEBSITE ARTICLE

Use this format for articles from newspaper websites (*Ottawa Citizen, The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, La Presse, Le Droit, Le Devoir, The Guardian*, etc.), news websites (*CBC News, HuffPost, Radio-Canada, CNN, BBC News,* etc.), and online magazines (*The Atlantic, Macleans, L'actualité, Psychology Today,* etc.).

This type of article generally doesn't have explicit page numbers; you can omit this element of the in-text citation (see example).

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Article." *Publication or Website Name*, day month year, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Nicholson, Katie. "'Barriers' in Canada's Legal System Complicating Fight to End Domestic Violence." *CBC News*, 9 Mar. 2020, www.cbc.ca/news/barriers-in-canada-s-legal-system-complicating-fight-to-end-domestic-violence-1.5488510.
In-text citation	(Nicholson) *or* Nicholson

BLOG POST

Blog posts generally don't have explicit page numbers; you can omit this element of the in-text citation (see example).

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Blog Post." *Website or Blog Name*, day month year, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Kennedy, Carmen. "12 Contemporary Black Authors to Celebrate." *Grammarly*, 7 Feb. 2022, www.grammarly.com/blog/black-authors/.

In-text citation	(Kennedy) *or* Kennedy mentions…

DICTIONARY OR ENCYCLOPEDIA (or other reference work)

Online with no individual author

Components of works-cited-list entry	"Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work/Website*, day month year of publication or last update, URL.
or	"Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work/Website*, URL. Accessed day month year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	"Media." *Merriam-Webster*, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/media. Accessed 28 Jan. 2022.
In-text citation	("Media") *or* The term "media" is defined as…

Online with individual author

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Entry Author. "Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work/Website*, day month year of publication or last update, URL.
or	Last Name, First Name of Entry Author. "Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work/Website*, URL. Accessed day month year.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Sorell, Tom. "Thomas Hobbes." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1 Apr. 2024, www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-Hobbes.
In-text citation	(Sorell) *or* Sorell explains…

Print with no individual author

Components of works-cited-list entry	"Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work*, Publisher, year, page of entry.

Example of works-cited-list entry	"Psychology." *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2004, p. 408.
In-text citation	("Psychology" 408) *or* The term "psychology" (408) is defined as…

Print with individual author

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Entry Author. "Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work*, xnd ed., Publisher, year, page of entry.
or	Last Name, First Name of Entry Author. "Entry Consulted." *Title of Reference Work*, edited by First Name Last Name of Editor, Publisher, year, page of entry

Example of works-cited-list entry	Hartwig, Michael J. "Bioethics." *An Introductory Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies*, edited by Orlando O. Espín and James B. Nickoloff, Liturgical Press, 2007, p. 143.
In-text citation	(Hartwig 143) *or* Hartwig (143)

THESIS OR DISSERTATION

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Thesis*. Year. University Name, type of document. *Platform/Repository Name*, DOI or URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Fabes, Robert. *Meaning Exploration and Well-Being for People Experiencing Homelessness: Program Development and Evaluation Using a Knowledge Translation-Integrated Based Consensual Qualitative Research Approach*. 2024. Saint Paul University, doctoral thesis. *uO Research*, http://dx.doi.org/10.20381/ruor-30106.
In-text citation	(Fabes 113) *or* Fabes (65)

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION OR REPORT

When a document is published by an agency or organization that is also its author, begin the entry with the title of the document followed by the name of the agency or organization (see first example below).

No individual author (agency or department as author)

Components of works-cited-list entry	*Title of Publication*. Agency or Department Name, day month year of publication, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	*Canada's Black Population: Education, Labour and Resilience*. Statistics Canada, 25 Feb. 2020, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020002-eng.pdf?st=v7OEaeqo.
In-text citation	(Statistics Canada 18) *or* Statistics Canada (12)

With individual author

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Publication*. Agency or Department Name, day month year of publication, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Páez Silva, Alejandro. A. *The French Language in Ontario, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures*. Statistics Canada, 16 Oct. 2019, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2019012-eng.pdf.
In-text citation	(Páez Silva 4) *or* Páez Silva (4)

WEBPAGE (general, institutional, corporate, etc.)

- Webpages on institutional or organizational websites generally don't have individual authors. The works-cited-list entry must therefore begin with the title of the webpage, followed by the name of the organization or institution (see the two examples below).
    - If a webpage does have an author, follow the examples for newspaper, news website, or magazine articles or blog posts.
- If a webpage does not have a publication date, provide the copyright date (©), usually found at the very bottom of the page.
    - Only in very rare instances will webpages have neither publication nor copyright date; in this case, you must include the access date at the end of the entry.
- Webpages don't have explicit page numbers; you can omit this element of the in-text citation.

Components of works-cited-list entry	"Title of Webpage." *Name of Organization or Institution*, day month year of publication or last update, URL.
Or	"Title of Webpage." *Name of Organization or Institution*, URL. Accessed day month year.

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	"Immunization Coverage." *World Health Organization*, 6 Dec. 2019, www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/immunization-coverage.
In-text citation	("Immunization Coverage") *or* According to "Immunization Coverage," most children do not…

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	"Services." *Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives*, 2024, ustpaul.ca/en/jean-leon-allie-library-and-archives/services/.
In-text citation	("Services") *or* In "Services," the library states…

COURSE LECTURE OR POWERPOINT SLIDES

The *MLA Handbook* does not address the citing of course material. Below is our suggestion, which we have created using various citation guides.

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Author. "Title of Lecture or Presentation." Course code: Course Name, day month year of lecture, University Name, Platform URL if content was accessed online. Type of document or presentation.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Lafrenière, Geneviève. "Conflict studies in the 21st century." ECS 2561: Introduction to Conflict Studies, 18 Jan. 2026, Saint Paul University, www.uottawa.brightspace.com. PowerPoint slides.
In-text citation	(Lafrenière, slide 4) *or* Lafrenière (slide 7)

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

- If a creator's online handle (@) is similar to their account name (for example, @eltonjohn and Elton John), you can omit their handle; otherwise, supply the handle in square brackets after their name.
- With this type of source, **the title of the post is the text of the post**.
    - If it is short (a sentence or two), provide it in its entirety

o   If it is long, shorten it using an ellipsis ("…") after the first few words.

TikTok

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Creator OR Account Name [@handle if necessary]. "Title of post." *Site/Platform Name*, day month year, URL of post.

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	John, Elton. "Rocket Man has hit 1 billion streams on Spotify! Thank you to all of you who.…" *TikTok*, 5 Jan. 2024, www.tiktok.com/@eltonjohn/video/7320676496811642142.
In-text citation	(John) *or* In a video posted to *TikTok*, John thanked…

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	CBC News. "Heart disease hits South Asians earlier and harder than other groups of people, but no one fully knows why.…" *TikTok*, 19 Apr. 2024, www.tiktok.com/@cbcnews/video/7359702592273845510.
In-text citation	(CBC News) *or* On *TikTok*, CBC News explains that…

Facebook

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Creator OR Account Name. "Title of post." *Site Name*, day month year, URL of post.

Example of works-cited-list entry	DuVernay, Ava. "It's hard out there for women directors.…" *Facebook*, 9 Apr. 2017, www.facebook.com/directher/photos/a.298468910163362/1649731215037118.
In-text citation	(DuVernay) *or* In a *Facebook* post, DuVernay claims that…

Instagram

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Creator OR Account Name [@handle if necessary]. "Title of post." *Site/Platform Name*, day month year, URL of post.
or	Last Name, First Name of Creator OR Account Name [@handle if necessary]. Photo OR video of XYZ. *Site/Platform Name*, day month year, URL of post.

Example of works-cited-list entry	Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives [@bibliospu]. "Vous n'avez pas eu le temps de venir voir notre vitrine thématique de la Journée internationale des femmes?" *Instagram*, 9 Mar. 2020, www.instagram.com/p/B9hDC7xplne/.
In-text citation	(Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives) *or* On *Instagram*, the Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives showed…

YOUTUBE, VIMEO, OR OTHER ONLINE VIDEO

The *MLA Handbook* does not give explicit guidelines on how to cite a video from a video sharing site. Here are our suggestions, which we have created using various citation guides.

If the creator of the video is known/identifiable

Components of works-cited-list entry	Last Name, First Name of Creator. "Title of Video." *Platform/Site Name*, uploaded by Username if different than creator, day month year of publication, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	Revis, Tracie. "A New National Park to Reclaim Indigenous Land | Tracie Revis | TED." *YouTube*, uploaded by TED, 10 Apr. 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gdi7uN-DQYo.
In-text citation	(Revis 1:24-3:45)

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	Peter Peter. "La nuit est longue (from 'Heated Rivalry')." *YouTube*, 15 Jan. 2026, https://youtu.be/Qso0bYJGv5Y?si=gOXCecOBu83QgO9w
In-text citation	(Peter Peter 0:15-0:23)

If the creator of the video is unknown/unidentifiable

Components of works-cited-list entry	"Title of Video." *Platform/Site Name*, uploaded by Username if different than creator, day month year of publication, URL.

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	"Discover our Indigenous Services!" *YouTube*, uploaded by USPottawa, 29 Aug. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=N76tjKpotlE.
In-text citation	("Discover our Indigenous Services!" 02:35-03:10)

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	"Introduction to Citation Styles: MLA 9th ed." *YouTube*, uploaded by CSUDH Library, 9 July 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7MyM_V8-EA.
In-text citation	("Introduction to Citation Styles: MLA 9th ed." 01:43-2:59)

RELIGIOUS WORK

Print

Components of works-cited-list entry	*Title of Work*. Edited OR Translated by First Name Last Name, Publisher, year.
or	*Title of Work*. Version or edition, Publisher, year.
Components of in-text citation	(*Shortened Title of Work*, version consulted if necessary to distinguish, abbreviated name of book. chapter.verse)

Example of works-cited-list entry #1	*Holy Bible: 1611 King James Version*. 400th Anniversary Edition, Zondervan, 2011.
In-text citation	(*Holy Bible*, Rev. 21.3)

Example of works-cited-list entry #2	*The New Jerusalem Bible.* Edited by Henry Wansbrough, Doubleday, 1985.
In-text citation	(*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5)

Example of works-cited-list entry #3	*The Holy Qur'an.* Translated by Maulawi Sher Ali, Islam International Publications, 2011.
In-text citation	(*Holy Qur'an*, 12.69)

Example of works-cited-list entry #4	*The Torah: The Five Books of Moses*. 3ʳᵈ edition, The Jewish Publication Society, 2015.
In-text citation	(*Torah,* Proverbs 24.16)

Online

Components of works-cited-list entry	*Title of Work*. Version or edition, year. *Name of website or source of work*, URL.
or	*Title of Work*. Version or edition. *Name of website or source of work*, URL. Accessed day month year.
Components of in-text citation	(*Shortened Title of Work*, version consulted if necessary to distinguish, abbreviated name of book chapter.verse)

Example of works-cited-list entry	*King James Bible*. 2024. *King James Bible Online*, www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/.
In-text citation	(*King James Bible*, 2 Thess. 2.5)

For more information and examples:
- *MLA Handbook, 9ᵗʰ Edition* (find it at our Citing and Writing Station)
- Works Cited: A Quick Guide (official MLA website)
- Citations by Format (official MLA website)
- Citation Style Research Guide on the Library's website

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