Modern Language Association
(MLA) Citation Guide

Introduction

This guide contains information on how to cite resources in the MLA style. Information in this handout is based on the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition (which is found in both our Reference Collection and Upper Level at call number 808.02 G437 2016). This guide covers a lot of ground, but it does not cover everything – if you are having trouble citing a resource, please contact one of Illinois College’s librarians:

- Luke Beatty, Library Director / luke.beatty@ic.edu
- Garrett Traylor, Reference & Cataloging Librarian / garrett.traylor@ic.edu
- Erika Wade Smith, Digital Services Librarian / erika.wadesmith@ic.edu

Meta-Notes:

Places to Cite: When citing in MLA, you must consider both your *Works Cited* list and your *in-text* citations.

- The *Works Cited* list comes at the end of your paper, and is titled “Works Cited.” This list is organized in alphabetical order by author’s last name, and contains full citations of all the work you have used in your paper. See the “Works Cited” section of this guide for a sample.
- The *in-text* citation is an abbreviated reference that is found in your paper’s text. You will see sample in-text citations throughout this guide.

In-Text Citations: While there is only one way to cite a work in your *Works Cited* list, there are two ways you can cite in-text. The two in-text citation methods are known as the *name-in-sentence* method and the *parenthesis* method. Your choice of one over the other will boil down to a stylistic preference (we use the parenthesis format in this guide). Here are examples of each:

- **Parenthesis method**: After the event, the crowd dispersed (Johnson 24).
- **Name-in-sentence method**: After the event, Johnson noted the crowd dispersed (24).

Multiple Authors: Citing multiple authors is a tricky business in MLA, but fortunately, it works the same way across all types of resources. In general, you will always list authors/editors in the order they appear on the source. We have covered the rules for citing multiple authors under the *Books* section of this guide, so look there if you need some guidance.

Spacing: The *MLA Handbook* recommends one space between sentence-ending punctuation (periods, question marks, exclamation points, etc.) and the subsequent word, but it also says that using two is okay if you are comfortable with that.
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### Examples

#### Blog (MLA Handbook 48)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Title of Blog Post.” Blog Title, Website Publisher, day month year of blog post, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]

**Example:**


**Example (with URL and access date):**


**In-Text:**

The market for theatre safety materials was burgeoning, and had even extended into the blogosphere (Wayne).

**Note 1:** MLA recommends including the URL, but because links may change over time, does not require a URL as part of a citation.

**Note 2:** Likewise, include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

**Note 3:** MLA 8 no longer requires that you write out “www.” as part of a URL.

#### Book (with 1 author or 1 editor) (MLA Handbook 21)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] or Editor’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], editor. Book Title. Publisher, publication year.

**Example 1:**


**Example 2:**


**In-Text:**

In a few short years, bike polo had become a popular activity with the flannel-and-skinny-jeans set (Reda 89). Predictably, however, the fad was short-lived, and the hipster zeitgeist soon moved on (Blatche 12-21).

**Note 1:** When citing an edited work, make sure to note the editor’s role by including the word “editor” as shown in the format.

**Note 2:** In-text citations should include page numbers.

#### Book (with 2 authors or 2 editors) (MLA Handbook 21)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], and Author’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname or Editor’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], and Editor’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, editors. Book Title. Publisher, publication year.

**Example 1:**


**Example 2:**


**In-Text:**

With Ernst Röhm’s murder, Himmler had eliminated a dangerous and resourceful rival (Stewart and Juber 20-30). In addition, he had also cleared the Storm Battalion’s influence from the Nazi power structure, thus freeing Hitler to insinuate himself further into the German state apparatus (Roth and Meine 100-125).

**Note 1:** With the second author/editor, the naming convention switches to First-Name then Surname.

**Note 2:** When citing an edited work, make sure to note the editors’ roles.
**Book (with 3 or more authors or 3 or more editors) (MLA Handbook 22)**

**Format:** Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], *et al.* or Editor’s Surname, First-Name, [Middle-Initial. if present], *et al.*, editors. *Book Title.* Publisher, publication year.


**In-Text:** The work is brimming with tales of impossible stupidity, ranging from a user who confuses his toaster with a fax machine, to a man who plugs his amplifier into a disused toilet bowl (Stancowicz et al. 20-40). Likewise, *Stupid Stories from the Set* paints a dispiriting picture of everyday idiocy, with highlights including a PA who confuses his boss’s coffee with paint filler, and a key grip who solders his penis to a young starlet’s trailer in a gesture of misplaced devotion (Smith et al. 87-210).

Note 1: Include only the first author/editor, followed by “*et al.*” (which in Latin means “and others”) in both in-text and Works Cited list citations.

Note 2: When citing an edited work, make sure to note the editors’ roles.

**Book (translated) (MLA Handbook 23)**

**Format 1:** Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], *Book Title.* Translated by Translator First-Name Surname. Publisher, publication year.

**Format 2:** Translator’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], *translator.* *Book Title.* By Author’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, Publisher, publication year.


**In-Text:** The liquor, of course, was just a pretense -- it was really just an excuse to flirt with the fisherman, laborers, and dock workers that littered the area (Glendenning 36-41).

Note 1: You do not need to include the original publication date for translations in your citation when using MLA.

Note 2: Use Format 1 when you are focusing on the work in general. Use Format 2 when focusing on the translation or translator.

**Book (reprint) (MLA Handbook 50)**

**Format:** Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. *Book Title.* Original publication year. Publisher, reprint publication year.


**In-Text:** Much in the style of the day, an outsized cross-hatching technique was used to portray the larger-than-life figures of the era (Parker 50-100).


**Format:** Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. *Book Title.* Format/Version, Publisher, publication year. Web container, URL.


**In-Text 1:** The literary study cleverly introduces the poetics of cultural production (Gikandi 128).

**In-Text 2:** The harbingers of death turned out to be non-humans in humanoid form (Browder ch. 2, par. 4).

Note 1: Electronic formats do not always carry stable page numbers (e.g., pagination may depend on text size), a factor that potentially limits their suitability for future reference. In absence of a stable page number, include a chapter, section, or other locator. Use abbreviations “ch.” for chapter and “par.” for paragraph as needed, otherwise numbers in citations are assumed to be page numbers.
### Book Chapter (in an edited book) (MLA Handbook 27)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Chapter Title.” *Book Title, edited by* Editor’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, Publisher, publication year, pp. chapter pages.

**Example:**


**In-Text:**

Forever in the shadow of Amelia Earhart, and without her knack for self-promotion, Amy Johnson was destined to be “the other” aviatrix of the pre-Depression era (Hardle 420-428).

**Note 1:** You would only cite a book chapter in an *edited book* (i.e. a book where every chapter is written by a different author, but assembled by an editor); if the book only has one author, you would just cite the entire book, even if you are only using one chapter.

### Book Review (MLA Handbook 29)

**Format:**

Reviewer’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Review Title.” Review of *Book Title*, by Book author’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname. *Journal/Magazine Title*, day month year published, pp. review page numbers.

**Example:**


**In-Text:**

The reviews were dismal, however, and Kottke quickly went back to his guitar (Pumanti 17-19).

**Note 1:** If the review journal/magazine does not have a day (or even a month), simply omit that from your citation.

### Brochure / Flyer / Pamphlet (MLA Handbook 20)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] or Organization Name. Brochure Title. Publisher, publication/copyright year.

**Example:**


**In-Text:**

Cosmetic surgery was even making inroads in socioeconomically depressed areas of the city, best epitomized by the ubiquitous *Lose 40 Pounds in 48 Hours* brochure, found throughout Chicago’s south side in the summer of 2001 (Occidental).

**Note 1:** Often an informal publication like a flyer will not have all information available. In those cases, use “n.p.” for “no place/publisher,” and “n.d.” for “no date” where appropriate.

### Classical Work (e.g. famous religious text, Greek classic, etc.) (MLA Handbook 122-123)

**Format:**

Work Name. Role (if applicable), Editor’s/Translator’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, Edition/Version, Publisher, publication year.

**Example 1:**


**Example 2:**


**In-Text:**

The Abrahamic religions, of course, offered guidance on the matter in the Bible (Ezekiel 2:8-9), though not all versions carry quite the same message (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezekiel 2:8-9).

**Note 1:** When citing in-text, follow this format: *(Work Name, Book chapter verse).*

**Note 2:** If the work has no chapters or verses, simply omit them from your in-text citation; if the work does not have a version, omit the “Edition/Version” section from your reference.

**Note 3:** While you will notice that general terms do not need to be italicized in-text, full and shortened titles of specific editions do need to be italicized.
Conversation / Email / Phone Call / Personal Interview (MLA Handbook 28-29, 50-53)

Format: Sender/Interviewee Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. Kind of interview. Day month year of correspondence.

Example 1: Crow, Daniel D. Personal communication. 7 Jan. 2014.


In-Text: Johnson, a violent and contemptible racist, spewed forth an unceasing stream of race-baiting invective during our conversation (Crow).

Note 1: When citing in-text, cite according to the last name of the interviewee. You do not need page numbers for interview citations.

Dataset / Data Table / Statistic (MLA Handbook 20, 50-53, MLA Style)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] or Rights-holder. Dataset/Statistic Title. Format. [Optional City of Publication.] Name of Producer, publication year.


In-Text: The range of datasets available to the modern consumer is enormous. Consider social registers, now available in England as far back 1779 (Stuckey), or industry datasets, now also widely available (South African Department of Mineral Resources 49 [table 6]). Visual representations of data are also readily available to the modern data consumer, as from the South African Department of Labour.

Note 1: A dataset is simply a collection of data (i.e. a body of facts or information about a particular subject); a statistic is a particular piece of data, often represented graphically.

Dataset / Data Table / Statistic (online) (MLA Handbook 20, 50-53, MLA Style)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] or Rights-holder. Dataset/Statistic Title. Format. [Optional City of Publication.] Name of Producer (if available), publication year. URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]


In-Text: As at July, 2014, France had the 5th largest GDP in the world (World Bank). France is unusual amongst the G10, however, in the unusually high percentage of household income which goes toward the payment of state tax (International Monetary Fund).

Note 1: A dataset is simply a collection of data (i.e. a body of facts or information about a particular subject); a statistic is a particular piece of data.

Note 2: MLA does not require a URL, though it is recommended.

Dictionary Entry (MLA Handbook 20, 50-53)

Format: “Entry name.” Dictionary Title, edition # (if applicable). Publisher, publication year, pp. page number(s).


In-Text: “Antidisestablishmentarianism” is the longest word in the English language (“Antidisestablishmentarianism”). Language evolves, however, and even words that we once thought silly – “defriend,” for instance – can find their way into dictionaries (“Defriend”).

Note 1: If the dictionary has an edition, abbreviate the word “edition” with “ed.” If the dictionary does not list an edition, simply omit the edition # from your citation.
Dictionary Entry (online) (MLA Handbook 20, 50-53)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text: Most people are unaware that the technology company Google took its name from the word “googol,” denoting the number ((1 \times 10^{100})) (“Googol”).</td>
<td>Note 1: MLA does not require a URL for dictionary definitions, but if you want to include a URL, you may.</td>
<td>Note 2: Sometimes a dictionary definition can include the parts of speech, such as “Adj.” or “N.” as part of the entry citation, as in example 2. This can be useful to include when a word has multiple definitions, and you want to draw attention to a particular meaning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E-Book
See entry for Book (electronic) / E-book.

Encyclopedia Entry / Handbook Entry (MLA Handbook 27)

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text: Though certain albums retained a more dynamic mastering, the majority of popular recordings were now being mastered in a compressed fashion (Gallagher 972-979). With iTunes Radio’s volume ceiling, however, the incentive to hot master was now considerably less than was the case with terrestrial radio (Fagen 243-245).</td>
<td>Note 1: Edition refers to the version of the encyclopedia, while volume refers to the number of different books which make up the encyclopedia (e.g. World Book could be in its 10th edition, and in that 10th edition, there might be 26 volumes, perhaps one for each letter of the alphabet).</td>
<td>Note 2: If the encyclopedia/handbook does not have an edition, omit the “Edition” section of your citation; if it does not have a volume (or is only 1 volume), omit the “total volumes” section; if it does not have an editor, omit the “edited by...” section.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 3: Abbreviate “volumes” to “vols.” and “edition” to “ed.”

Essay (in a collection or anthology) (MLA Handbook 27)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note 1: Collections and anthologies will usually have an editor; if yours does not, simply omit the “edited by” section of your citation.</td>
<td>Note 2: If the encyclopedia/handbook does not have an edition, omit the “Edition” section of your citation; if it does not have a volume (or is only 1 volume), omit the “total volumes” section; if it does not have an editor, omit the “edited by...” section.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Essay (in a reprinted volume or course pack) (MLA Handbook 53)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], “Essay Title.”

**Collection/Course Pack, edited by** Editor’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]
Surname, Publisher, year published, pp. page numbers. **Originally published in**
Original Title, original vol. # (if present), original no. # (if present), original year
published, original pp. page numbers.

**Example:**

Millions, Timothy T. “Anti-Racism Education in Pre-Modern Children’s Literature:
Decentering Curious George.” *Kid-lit*, edited by Marge G. Wiseman, Pisan Press,

**In-Text:** The prevailing attitudes of the day were profoundly hostile to communities of color,
though those prejudices were, to a degree, lessened in popular children’s fantasies of
the late 1890s and into the early 1900s (Millions 25-28).

---

Note 1: Collections and anthologies will usually have an editor; if yours does not, omit the “edited by...”
section of your citation.

### Film / Motion Picture (MLA Handbook 24, 38-39)

**Format:**

Contributor’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], role. *Film Title*. Original
release year. Version (if present, for example: director’s cut), Studio/Publisher/Distributor,
year published.

**Example 1:**


**Example 2:**

Studios, 2011.

**In-Text:**

With *Satan vs. Aliens*, Hollywood budgets had been taken to a ludicrous extreme
(Hudson). The budget of *Guns Against Wizardry* was larger still (though, in fairness,
the CGI work was breathtaking) (Abrahams).

---

Note 1: Works in media and film often have many people contributing to their creation. If your
discussion of such a work focuses on the contribution of a particular person (e.g. the performance of
a specific actor, or the ideas of the screenwriter), begin the entry with his or her name followed by a
descriptive label. Otherwise cite the director.

Note 2: For television episodes and series, see *Television Program (episode)* and *Television Program
(series)*, respectively.

### Government Publication (MLA Handbook 53, 104-105)

**Format:**

Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] or Government Issuing
Agency/Department. *Publication Title*. Publisher, publication year.

**Example 1:**

and the Development of Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Canadian Institute for Health

**Example 2:**

British Columbia, Ministry of Health. *Do Vaccinations Cause Autism?* Queen’s

**In-Text:**

Health authorities mounted a campaign to assure the public that vaccinations were
indeed safe (British Columbia Ministry of Health 20). By 2003, these campaigns had
a wealth of counter-evidence to discredit Wakefield’s claims that vaccinations were
at all to blame for autism (Hung 45).

### Image / Photo / Artwork (viewed in person) (MLA Handbook 49)

**Format:**

Artist’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. *Work Title*. Year created,
Museum/Gallery/Collection Name, City.

**Example:**


**In-Text:**

Some artists have turned to Abstract Expressionism to reflect their own lived
experiences of city life (Bearden).

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Note 1: If you are viewing the same work on the museum or gallery’s website rather than in person,
include the name of the website, the publisher of the website (if present), and the URL rather than
the information on the physical location.
### Format: Artist’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. Work Title. Container Title (e.g. blog post title), day month year created. Website Title, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]

### Example 1:

### Example 2:

### In-Text:
Showing radically different depictions of life frozen in time, we can examine a scene of urban life in transit (Bearden) and existential terror in the wake of Pompeii (Sheldon) side by side.

Note 1: Include date accessed only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If no author is clearly listed, omit the author section of the citation.

### Image / Photo / Artwork (online) (MLA Handbook 49, 42)

| Format: Description of image. N.d., URL. |
| In-Text: Consider, even, the reification of the pre-trip experience, captured anonymously in the painting below (Untitled painting of a man ingesting peyote). |

Note 1: Include date accessed only if you believe the source is likely to change over time. Date accessed is more important when other information is not available.

### Journal Article (print or digital copy of print) (MLA Handbook 21, 27-28, 30)

| Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Article Title.” Journal Title, vol. #, no. #, month year published, pp. page numbers. |
| In-Text: Basket weaving was held in contempt by many of the faculty, but a grassroots, student-led campaign spurred its take-up at the college (Jack, “Is Basket Weaving…” 9). In time, basket weaving became a cornerstone of the curriculum (Jack, “Basket Weaving Revisited” 39). |

Note 1: When citing multiple works by the same author, you can specify the title of the specific work (either in full or enough of the title to distinguish it followed by ellipses) within your in-text citation.

Note 2: If your journal does not have an issue number, omit that part of the citation.

### Journal Article (with URL or DOI) (MLA Handbook 48)

| Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Article Title.” Journal Title, vol. #, no. #, month year published, pp. page numbers, URL or DOI. |
| In-Text: The device was infrequently used, though select works employed it (Suessadon 35-36). |

Note 1: If the article has a DOI (digital object identifier) and a URL, only include the DOI.

Note 2: If you found the article in a database, it is unnecessary to include the database name in your citation.

Created & Maintained by Garrett Traylor; Last updated: September 2017 Page 10
**Magazine Article (MLA Handbook 21, 27-28, 30, 45)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. (if present)]. “Article Title.” Magazine Title, vol. #, no. #, day month year published, pp. page numbers.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Sabermetrics was developed in the 1980s by Bill James, but prior to 2000, had mostly been used in baseball (Simmons 20-25). Their use in the NBA began to skyrocket with when Houston Rocket’s General Manager, Daryl Morey, began to use them with success (Lowe 79-82).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** If the magazine does not include a day, simply omit that section from your citation.

**Note 2:** If the magazine does not have a volume #/issue #, simply omit that section from your citation.

**Note 3:** Do not include a month in your in-text citation, even if it appears in the reference.

**Magazine Article (online) (MLA Handbook 48, 53)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Article Title.” Magazine Title, vol. #, no. #, month year published, pp. page numbers, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>While the match rate of online dating services was increasing, the sites still retained an aura of disreputability, especially as epitomized by their unforgiving billing practices (Richards).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

**Map (from an atlas or book) (MLA Style)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Map Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. Map Title. Format. Scale. In Atlas/Book Title, by Atlas/Book Author’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, edition # (if present), Publisher, publication year, p. page number.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The Cherokee relocation was comparatively swift, and the permeable Canadian border would soon find them relocating into Canadian territory. (Morantz 61).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** If scale is unknown, use the phrase “Scale not given.”

**Note 2:** If including the map itself in your paper, it should be labeled “Figure” (usually abbreviated Fig.), assigned an Arabic numeral, and given a caption which includes the citation.

**Map (online) (MLA Style)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Map Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. Map Title. Format. Scale. URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>By 1750, however, the Empire was neither Roman, holy, or really even an empire (Hogan).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.
Music Recording (MLA Handbook 39)

Format: Writer’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], “Song Title.” [Performance by Artist First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, if different than Writer.] Album Title. Publisher/Label, publication year.


In-Text: Bobbie produced a startling array of records, most notably And Other Dice Throws, which saw her join forces with local garage rock luminaries Natalie Conroy and Butch Anagnos (Bangles, “Eat Free Parking”). Three years later, Bobbie had gone solo, though her output remained vital, most notably on the already-classic “Dungeon Menagerie” (Bangles).

Note 1: When citing multiple works by the same author, specify the work you are citing either in your parenthetical citation or within the sentence as shown above.

Newspaper Article (MLA Handbook 30, 45)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], “Article Title.” Newspaper Title, vol. #, no. #, day month year published, pp. page numbers.


In-Text: The term ‘jerkwater’ originally described trains which ran off the main line (Blatchford B2). Podunk, IL was indeed a jerkwater town, but after its pumping station was engulfed in flames in 1977, things got even more difficult for trains passing through town (DeMontario C3, C7).

Note 1: Many newspapers will not have a volume or issue number, in which case you can omit them.

Note 2: Many newspapers also have a non-traditional numbering scheme, with pages such as “A6” or “B2.” Some articles may also appear on non-consecutive pages.

Newspaper Article (online) (MLA Handbook 30, 44-45)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], “Article Title.” Newspaper Title, day month year published, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]


In-Text: Even with proper refrigeration, a rotisserie chicken should not be eaten after 72-96 hours from the time of purchase (Karotin).

Note 1: Many online newspapers will not have page numbers; if this is the case, simply omit the page number(s) section from your reference.

Note 2: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Podcast (MLA Handbook 28, 30)

Format: Author’s/Producer’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], “Episode Title.” Podcast Title, no. #, day month year published, URL.


In-Text: Wednesday has been cancelled (Fink).
Poem (original) (MLA Handbook 26-27, 77-79)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Poem Title.” Collection Title, Publisher, year published, pp. page numbers.


In-Text: Brown’s work was typical of the period, as best exemplified by his seminal piece, “Black Cream, Black Coffee” (Brown 32-33).

In-Text Direct Quote (1-3 lines): In his poem, “Black Cream, Black Coffee,” Brown writes: “Lastly drank I the nightly thusly while / dream swirled and hurled in my face the lack of lusting” thus demonstrating his obsessive late nights battling with the memory of his ex-wife after the turmoil of their divorce (32).

In-Text Direct Quote (4+ lines): The following excerpt of Brown’s “Black Cream, Black Coffee” demonstrates his obsessive late nights battling with the memory of his ex-wife after the turmoil of their divorce (32):

Lastly drank I the nightly thusly while
dream swirled and hurled in my face the lack of lusting
I will not my will to ceaseless watching.
And so, beguile I and on.

Note 1: When quoting poetry and verse, use a forward slash (/) to indicate a line break, and two forward slashes (//) to indicate a stanza break.

Note 2: If quoting more than 3 lines, set the text off as a block, indenting once from the margin.

Poem (reprinted) (MLA Handbook 26-27, 77-79)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Poem Title.” Collection/Anthology Title, edited by Editor’s First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, Publisher, year published, pp. page numbers. Originally published in Original Collection Title, original year published, original pp. page numbers.


In-Text: His work was becoming more confrontational, as wonderfully illustrated in “Red Caps in Green Hats” (Yorrick 50-51).

Note 1: If information about the original publication is unavailable, then omit.

Presentation / Lecture (online or digital) (MLA Handbook 20, MLA Style)

Format: Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Presentation Title.” Format. Course Title (if present), Publisher/Affiliated Organization, day month year published, URL. [Optional Slide(s) slide number(s)].


In-Text: Online training materials, particularly for Prezi and PowerPoint, had become ubiquitous by 2014 (Blaine; John, slide 5).

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If there is no individual author present, then you may cite the publisher/organization instead of the author as in Example 2.
Random Object (MLA Handbook 28-29)

**Format:** Creator’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. The random thing. Year created. Museum/Gallery/Collection Location, City.

**Example:** Mackintosh, Charles Rennie. Chair of stained oak. 1897-1900, Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**In-Text:** They sure don’t make chairs like they used to (Mackintosh).

Note 1: In case you ever need to cite something like a chair, now you know.

Note 2: Sometimes the “Year created” may be an approximate year or range rather than a definite date. In these cases, use the abbreviation for circa (“ca.”) to indicate the date is an estimate (e.g. “Ca. 1897”).

Screenplay / Play Script (MLA Handbook 20, 80)

**Format:** Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. Script/Screenplay Title. Publisher, publication year.


**In-Text:** The script was irreverent and insightful. Consider the following passage, which illustrates Janet’s exasperation with her gormless aunt, Susan:

SUSAN: Now, you see, Janet, one can never be too clean! Never, never, never! For cleanliness is next to godliness – and you want to be closer to God, don’t you???

JANET: No, no I don’t. [JANET calmly deposits her freshly laundered clothes on the floor]. Poo poo to God, and poo poo to you! [JANET reaches into her pocket, removes a handful of dirt, and throws it across her bed]. Filth is my only god! [JANET walks to her aquarium, reaches inside, and flings a ream of algae into SUSAN’s face].

SUSAN: Dammit, Janet! (St. Jean 13)

Note 1: If the script or screenplay is online, follow the reference format for e-books.

Note 2: For dialogue and/or stage direction, apply a block quote indenting once from the margin.

Note 3: When citing plays and scripts in-text, cite either by page numbers, or by Act#.Scene#.Line#, whichever is most clearly available in your edition.

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) (MLA Handbook 29)

**Format:** Personal Name or Username or Group Name. “Full text of Tweet” or “Post Title.” Social Media Platform, day month year published, time published, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]


**Example 2:** aggressiveshopper1. “DAE love Walgreens as much as I do?” Reddit, 14 February 2016, 2:00 a.m., redd.it/AskReddit/comments/2kgjhg2/dae_love_walgreens/. Accessed 24 July 2017.

**Example 3:** @Walgreens. “Shampoo at Walgreens all day today, $3.99! So much shampoo! We love shampoo!” Twitter, 2 June 2016, 2:49 a.m., twitter.com/Walgreens/status/14159265358979. Accessed 24 July 2017.

**In-Text:** Walgreens has a legion of supporters who go out of their way to promote the company on social media (Krittenag; aggressiveshopper1). The Walgreens corporate page has lately been reflecting this devoted fervor with a questionable degree of sanity (@Walgreens).

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time; for social media, it is almost assured that the source post will change over time (edited, deleted, made private, etc.), so a retrieval date is recommended.

Note 2: If you want to cite a social media page, and not a particular post on the page, simply omit the “Post Title” section from your citation.
### Television Program (episode) (MLA Handbook 24, 28, 30)

| Format 1: | “Episode Title.” Show/Series Title, created by Series Creator First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, performance by Lead Actor First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, season #, episode #, Studio, broadcast year. |
| Format 2: | Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present], role of person of focus. “Episode Title.” Show/Series Title, season #, episode #, Studio, broadcast year. |

**Example 1:** “The T-Rex and the Toad.” Worlds of Fantasy, created by Cody Horowitz, season 2, episode 5, Windsurfer Productions, 2005.


**In-Text:** The Emmy-winning episode, however, was childish, puerile, and delivered none of the high fantasy the series was known for (“T-Rex”). The writing continued to decline in the third season, becoming even more uninspired under the hack of a head writer that replaced even the former award winners, featuring such absurd lines as “Kiss me with your werebear feet” (Darby 00:34:24-27).

**Note 1:** Use the first format when generally referring to an episode. Use the second format when referring to a specific aspect of the production as your focus (such as the writing/writer of a specific episode, or the performance of a particular actor/actress).

**Note 2:** When citing specific scenes, include the numbers of the hours, minutes, and seconds as displayed in your media player, separating the numbers with colons in your in-text citation (MLA Handbook 57).

### Television Program (series) (MLA Handbook 24, 28, 30)

| Format: | Show/Series Title. Created by Series Creator First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, performance by Lead Actor First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present] Surname, Studio, broadcast year(s). |

**In-Text:** On the other hand, shows such as Tripartite took the conceit in a brainier direction, giving the sci-fi genre its first ‘college intellectual’ hit since Buffy.

**Note 1:** When citing a full work, and you mention it in-text, you do not need to include a parenthetical citation in that same sentence.

### Video (online) (MLA Handbook 30)

| Format: | Creator’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Video Title.” Website Title, Publisher (if present), day month year published, URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.] |

**In-Text:** The sequel, Death Warriors from Hell, received all manner of popular attention, from glowing reviews (Cunningham) to play-through videos (SpeedMonster75).

**Note 1:** Like when citing television episodes, you can adjust the format to emphasize particular contributors’ roles, also depending on what information is available.
### Video Game (Hacker 161; Ikemoto)

| Example 1: | Bales, Kevin. Castle Adventure. 1.3.2. MS-DOS. Kevin Bales, 1984. |

| In-Text: | The trend in videogame remakes is clearly epitomized in the recent remake of Castle Adventure, creatively titled Castle Adventure Redux (Sobriquet). The original title used little more than icons and text to convey its adventure (Parallaxium). The remake is a multimillion dollar extravaganza, bordering on the obscene. |

Note 1: If the game can be played on the web, include a URL at the end of the citation as you would for any other web source.

Note 2: If you are referring to the general release of a game, include all platforms in your citation. If you are focusing on the release of a game on a particular platform only, then include only that platform in your citation.

### Website (with personal author) (MLA Handbook 28)

| Format: | Author’s Surname, First-Name [Middle-Initial. if present]. “Article or Page Title (if applicable).” Website Title, creation/update day month year(s), URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.] |

| In-Text: | The WordPress blogging platform was, by 2011, the leading microblogging platform on the Internet (Corey). That growth, however, made the site a very public target for hackers and data thieves (Kroft). |

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If no date can be found, simply put “n.d.” for your date, meaning “no date.”

### Website (institution, organization, or company as author) (MLA Handbook 28, 104-105)

| Format: | Institution/Organization/Company. “Article or Page Title (if applicable).” Website Title, creation/update day month year(s), URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.] |

| In-Text: | Though many have speculated on the secret ingredient, Coke has remained silent on the issue (Coca-Cola). In Diet Coke, however, the secret ingredient has been supplemented with a not-so-secret ingredient – aspartame. Though health authorities have definitively established that aspartame is safe for human consumption – save by phenylketonurics – the lunatic fringe continues to cast doubt on the safety of the chemical (Ultimate Fitness). |

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If no date can be found, simply put “n.d.” for your date, meaning “no date.”
Website (no identifiable author) / Wiki / Discussion Board (MLA Handbook 28, 41-42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>“Article or Page Title (if applicable),” Website Title, creation/update day month year(s), URL. [Optional Accessed day month year accessed.]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| In-Text: | Following the revelation, Internet discussion boards were fixated on the issue, particularly on anonymous conspiracy blogs (“The Human Condition…”). When it came to light that phrenology was also involved in the practice, the Wikipedia page for “phrenology” was repeatedly defaced (“Phrenology”). |

Note 2: If no date can be found, simply put “n.d.” for your date, meaning “no date.”

Note 2: Include a retrieval date (e.g. “Accessed 24 July 2017.”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time; for wikis and discussion boards, it is almost assured that the source will change over time, so do include a retrieval date for these resources.
Works Cited


Bales, Kevin. Castle Adventure. MS-DOS. Kevin Bales, 1984.


Crow, Daniel D. Personal communication. 7 Jan. 2014.


SpeedMonster75. “Speedrun: Death Warriors from Hell.” YouTube, 26 May 2007, youtube.com/watch?v=eUbksLJrscA.


@Walgreens. “Shampoo at Walgreens all day today, $3.99! So much shampoo! We love shampoo!” Twitter, 2 June 2016, 2:49 a.m., twitter.com/Walgreens/status/14159265358979. Accessed 24 July 2017.

