

# LIBRARY WORKSHOP - MLA FORMAT

The Modern Language Association publishes the *MLA Handbook* which is used for essays and research papers in many humanities classes, including English classes. Examples in this handout are from the new eighth edition.

When you write a research paper for a class, at the end of the paper you will list the sources, such as magazine and journal articles, books, electronic databases, or websites. In MLA this is called the “Works Cited” page. Double-space citations on the Works Cited page. If the citation is more than one line, indent the second line.

## **General Rules on MLA Citations:**

- The purpose of citing sources you used is to create a trail that the reader can follow to locate the sources.
- MLA recommends “Core Elements” that should be in a citation. An individual source may not have all these elements; just list the elements that are in your source.
- Periods are after the author, source, and the final element of the citation. All other elements are separated by a comma. The first letter after any period is capitalized; the first letter after a comma is lower case.

Author.	
Title of Source.	
Title of Container,	
Other Contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	
Publisher,	
Publication Date,	
Location.	
Second Container, Location.	
Optional Elements.	

## Authors

### **Source with one author (book):**

Barlow, Maude. *Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever*. New Press, 2014.

### **Source with two authors or editors (multi-volume book):**

Ling, Huping, and Allan Austin, editors. *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia*. vol. 2, Myron E. Sharpe, 2010.

### **Source with three or more authors/editors (webpage):**

Perez-Pena, Richard, et al. "University of Chicago Strikes Back Against Campus Political Correctness." *New York Times*, 26 Aug. 2016, [www.nytimes.com/2016/08/27/us/university-of-chicago-strikes-back-against-campus-political-correctness.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/27/us/university-of-chicago-strikes-back-against-campus-political-correctness.html). Accessed 30 Aug. 2016.

### **Source from organization (webpage on website):**

"About Zika Virus Disease." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 20 June 2016, [www.cdc.gov/zika/about/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/about/index.html). Accessed 2 Aug. 2016.

### **Source with an editor (book):**

Tobin, Joseph, editor. *Making a Place for Pleasure in Early Childhood Education*. Yale UP, 1997.

### **Source with no author – anonymous (magazine):**

"Making Plans to Save Wildlife." *National Wildlife*, June/July 2007, p. 52.

### **Source with no author - anonymous (webpage on website):**

"Climate Change." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 28 June 2016, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change). Accessed 15 Aug. 2016.

## Sources / Containers

### **Source is the container (book):**

Hayes, Derek. *Historical Atlas of California: With Original Maps*. U of California P, 2005.

### **Source is the container (film – if focusing on film):**

*Bowling for Columbine*. Directed by Michael Moore, performances by Michael Moore, Charlton Heston, and Marilyn Manson. United Artists and Alliance Atlantis Communications, 2002.

### **Source is the container (film – if focusing on director):**

Moore, Michael, director. *Bowling for Columbine*. United Artists and Alliance Atlantis Communications, 2002.

### **Source within a container (newspaper article):**

Daragahi, Borzou. "Joint Isn't Jumping in Baghdad." *Los Angeles Times*, 27 June 2005, p. A1+.

### **Source within a container (short story in a book):**

Kesey, Ken. "The Day After Superman Died." *The Portable Beat Reader*, edited by Ann Charters, Viking Press, 1992, pp. 499-509.

### **Source within a container (online magazine article):**

Scharping, Nathaniel. "The Hole in the Antarctic Ozone Layer is Starting to Heal." *Discover Magazine*, Kalmbach Publishing, 30 June 2016, [blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2016/06/30/the-hole-in-the-ozone-is-starting-to-heal/#.V4UeEPldXTo](https://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2016/06/30/the-hole-in-the-ozone-is-starting-to-heal/#.V4UeEPldXTo). Accessed 15 July 2016.

### **Source within a container (image of a painting in a book):**

Marsh, Reginald. *Why Not Use the El?* 1930, tempera, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. *The American Scene: American Painting of the 1930's*, by Matthew Baigell, Praeger Publishers, colorplate 10.

### **Source with second container (ebook in EbscoHost database):**

Tremmel, Jorg, and Katherine Robinson. *Climate Ethics: Environmental Justice and Climate Change*.

I. B. Tauris, 2014. *EbscoHost*, web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=aa8db2ef-875a-465e-9dc4be962278ae35%40sessionmgr104&hid=116&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=801638&db=nlebk.

### **Source with second container (journal article in JSTOR):**

Covert, Thomas, et al. "Will We Ever Stop Using Fossil Fuels?" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 30, no. 1, American Economic Association, Winter 2016, pp. 117-137. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43710013.

### **Source with second container and DOI number (journal article in PubMed):**

Hollesen, Jorgen, et al. "Climate Change and the Loss of Organic Archaeological Deposits in the Arctic." *Scientific Reports*, vol. 6, no. 28690, Nature Publishing Group, 2016. *PubMed Central*, doi: 10.1038/srep28690.

## **In-Text Citations**

In the paper you write you will insert in-text citations. The in-text citation refers to the work cited page, so the reader knows which source you got the information from. The basic in-text citation lists the author's last name and page number in parenthesis, or notes the author's name in the sentence. If there is no author, put the title of the source in quotation marks. You can shorten a long title. If there is no page number, list just the author or title. The *MLA Handbook* and the OWL website have more detailed examples of in-text citations.

### **Example:**

There are ethical considerations regarding the impact of climate change on Earth (Tremmel and Robinson 34). Barlow notes that climate change will impact the Earth's oceans (148). This impact is already evident in the Arctic (Hollesen). The survival of many animals species are threatened by climate change ("Making" 52). Unfortunately animal populations are showing signs of stress from a warming climate ("Climate Change").

### **In-text citation for an indirect source:**

Try and use the original source, but if you are using a source that has information from another (indirect) source list the source you consulted on the Works Cited page and use an in-text citation for the indirect source. For example, if your source is the Tremmel and Robinson book, but in that book on page 104 it discusses the views of Cathy Itnyre, the in-text citation would be:

Cathy Itnyre contends that climate change will change death rituals in many countries (qtd. in Tremmel and Robinson 104).

## Works Cited

Barlow, Maude. *Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever*. New Press, 2014.

“Climate Change.” *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 28 June 2016, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\_change. Accessed 15 Aug. 2016.

Hollesen, Jorgen, et al. “Climate Change and the Loss of Organic Archaeological Deposits in the Arctic.” *Scientific Reports*, vol. 6, no. 28690, Nature Publishing Group, 2016. *PubMed Central*, doi: 10.1038/srep28690.

“Making Plans to Save Wildlife.” *National Wildlife*, June/July 2007, p. 52

Tremmel, Jorg, and Katherine Robinson. *Climate Ethics: Environmental Justice and Climate Change*.

I.B. Tauris, 2014. *EbscoHost*, web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=aa8db2ef-875a-465e-9dc4be962278ae35%40sessionmgr104&hid=116&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=801638&db=nlebk.

Author.	<p>Invert first author's name.  Don't invert names of additional authors.  For author's name omit degrees and titles.</p> <p>Organizations can be authors – but if they are also the publisher only list them as publisher.  Do not include <i>The</i> in organization's name.</p>
Title of Source.	<p>in quotation marks if in container;  in italics if source is also the container</p>
Title of Container,	<p>in italics</p>
Other Contributors,	<p>Examples: editors, translators, performers  Include any that are important to your research.</p>
Version,	<p>ed. = edition  vol. = volume</p>
Number,	<p>no. = issue or number</p>
Publisher,	<p>Use abbreviation UP for University Press;  if publisher is also author just list as publisher.</p>
Publication Date,	<p>Abbreviate  Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.</p>
Location.	<p>pages, website URL  If there is a DOI number, list that rather than URL.</p>
Second Container, Location.	<p>Some sources have a second container. Example:  article (source) is in a journal (container) that you found in a database (second container). List second container in italics and any additional information to locate the source.</p>
Optional Elements.	<p>If a webpage might change, MLA recommends listing the date you accessed it. Example:  Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.</p> <p>If an optional element relates to one of the core elements, list the optional element with the core element.</p>