A Concise Works Cited Guide for MLA (8th ed.)

The MLA citations have undergone some changes in the 8th edition. You can always ask a Reference Librarian for help or consult PURDUE OWL (owl.english.purdue.edu/owl) for more guidance.

Books and Media

The information needed to cite a book consists of three main components: the author, title, and publication information. If the citation is more than one line the second line is indented five spaces.

The basic book format is as follows:

Author last name, first name. Title of Book. Publisher, Date of publication.

A Book by One Author

(If you are citing multiple books by the same author, as shown below, you will only type the authors full name in the first entry. Every entry after that type three hyphens in place of the author’s name)


A Book with Two or More Authors

(If you have a book with three or more authors, type the first author’s name [last name first] followed by a comma and et al.)


A Work in an Anthology


Entry in a Familiar Reference Book


Signed/Authorised Entry in a Specialized Reference Book


*Note that when the publisher is a university press (as in the case above) you abbreviate to “UP.”

DVD/Feature Film

Articles from Print Sources
The following is the basic format for citing an article from an academic journal:

Author last name, first name. “Title of article.” Journal title, Volume, Issue #, Date of publication, Page #s.

Article in an Academic Journal


*Note that when doing a citation for a popular magazine or newspaper you won’t need to include volume and issue number

Article from a Library Database
The following is the basic format for citing an article from a library database:

Author last name, first name. “Title of a article.” Journal title, Volume, Issue #, Date of publication, Page #s, Database name, DOI or Permalink to article.

Article in Academic Search Premier

no. 2, Fall 1991, pp. 1-29, Academic Search Premier,


&AN=9201200704&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Article in LexisNexis