

Citing your sources

Information from *MLA Handbook: eighth edition*

Core elements with their punctuation:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

1. Author (person or group **primarily** responsible for producing the work).

Single author:

Last name, (comma) rest of the name. (period) Use the rest of the name as it is written in the work.

Examples: Kincaid, Jamaica.
Baron, Naomi S.

Two authors:

Last name, rest of the name, (comma) **and** second name in normal order. (period)

Example: Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich.

Three or more authors:

Last name, rest of name, (comma) et al. (period)

Example: Burdick, Anne, et al.

The “author” position should be used for the person(s) **primarily** responsible for aspect of the work that is your **focus** (editor, performer, translator, username etc.).

Examples:

@persiankiwi. “We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now -

#Iranelection.” *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m.,

twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.

Baron, Sabrina Alcorn, et al., editors. *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after*

Elizabeth L. Eisenstein. U of Massachusetts P / Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 2007.

Geller, Sarah Michelle, performer. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

Pevear, Richard, and Larissa Volokhonsky, translators. *Crime and Punishment*. By Feodor Dostoevsky, Vintage eBooks, 1993.

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Populations Growth in Developing Countries*. Taylor and Francis, 1991. Whedon, Joss, creator. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

2. Title of source.

Standardize the capitalization and punctuation in the title and subtitle. This applies to books, magazines, songs, articles on website, etc. If there is no title, make up an appropriate one. The “made-up” title can include the title of another work that is connected (p. 29)

The title is *italicized* if the source is self-contained.

The title is put in “quotes” if it is part of a larger work.

Create title if none is given, no italics or quotes

Examples:

Baron, Sabrina Alcorn, et al., editors. *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after*

Collection

Elizabeth L. Eisenstein. U of Massachusetts P / Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 2007.

Beyoncé. “Pretty Hurts.” *Beyoncé*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2013,

Song

www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media_view=songs.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle

TV series

Gellar, Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

Dewar, James A., and Peng Hwa Ang. "The Cultural Consequences of Printing and the

Collection

Internet." *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth L. Eisenstein*,

edited by Sabrina Alcorn Baron, et al., U of Massachusetts P / Center for the

Book, Library of Congress, 2007, pp. 365-77.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah

TV Episode

Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Jeane. Comment on "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." *So*

No title

Many Books, 25 Apr. 2013, 10:30 p.m., [somanymorebooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-](http://somanymorebooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain—differences-between-digital-and-print/#comment-83030)

reading-brain—differences-between-digital-and-print/#comment-83030.

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

No title
work of art

Museum, London. V&A, [collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O11281/chair-mackintosh-](http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O11281/chair-mackintosh-charles-rennie/)

charles-rennie/. Accessed 30 Jan. 2017.

3. Title of container,

This is where the source can be found and may be a book, periodical, TV series, web site etc.

The title is *italicized* and followed by a comma.

Examples:

Bazin, Patrick. "Toward Metareading." *The Future of the book*, edited by Geoffrey

Book

Nunberg, U of California P, 1996, pp. 153-68.

Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." **So**

Web site

Many Books, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain—differences-between-digital-and-print/.

"Hush." **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**, created by Josss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

TV episode

Williams, Joy. "Rogue Territory." **The New York Times Book Review**, 9 nov. 2014, pp. 1+.

Periodical

4. Other contributors,

Include the names and functions of other people whose participation is important to your focus on the work. Editors and translators of scholarly editions are usually included in the citation.

Common descriptions are:

adapted by

directed by

edited by

illustrated by

introduction by

narrated by

performance by

translated by

general editor, Edwin H. Cady

Example:

Dewar, James A., and Peng Hwa Ang. "The Cultural Consequences of Printing and the Internet." *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth L. Eisenstein*, **edited by Sabrina Alcorn Baron, et al.**, U of Massachusetts P / Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 2007, pp. 365-77.

Collection

5. Version,

If your source indicates a version, include that information

Examples:

Miller, Casey, and Kate Swift. *Words and Women*. Updated ed., HarperCollins

Book

Publishers, 1991.

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., Kindle ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

eBook

Newcomb, Horace, editor. *Television: The Critical View*. 7th ed., Oxford UP, 2007.

Book

Scott, Ridley, director. *Blade Runner*. 1982. Performance by Harrison Ford, director's

Film

cut, Warner Bros., 1992.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Othello*. Edited by Barbara Mowat and Paul

Book online

Werstine, version 1.2.1, Luminary Digital Media, 2013.

6. Number,

If your source is part of a numbered sequence, include the number.

Examples:

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media."

Periodical

PLMA, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah

TV episode

Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

Wellek, René. *A History of Modern Criticism, 1750-1950*. Vol. 5, Yale UP, 1986.

Book

7. Publisher,

Include the organization primarily responsible for producing your source.

Examples:

Clancy, Kate. "Defensive Scholarly Writing and Science Communication." *Context and*

Blog

Variation, **Scientific American Blogs**, 24 Apr. 2013,

blogs.scientificamerican.com/context-and-variation/2013/04/24/defensive-scholarly-writing-and-science-communication/.

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. **Oxford UP**, 2011.

Book

Harris, Charles "Teenie." *Woman in Paisley Shirt behind Counter in Record Store*.

Web site

Teenie Harris Archive, **Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh**,

teenie.cmoa.org/interactive/index.html#date08.

Kuzui, Fran Rubel, director. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. **Twentieth Century Fox**, 1992.

TV

Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible. **Folger**

Web site

Shakespeare Library / Bodleian Libraries, U of Oxford / Harry Ransom Center,

U of Texas, Austin, manifoldgreatness.org.

Stedman, Kyle. *Understanding MLA Style (8th edition, 2016 updates)*. **Rockford U.**, 3

Video
YouTube

June 2016. YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjbMfL92b7g. Accessed 2

Feb 2017.

The publisher may be omitted for the following kinds of publications:

- A periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper)
- A Work published by its author or editor
- A Web site whose title is essentially the same as the name of its publisher
- A Web site not involved in producing the works it makes available (e.g. a service for users' content like **YouTube**, an archive like **ProQuest**). If the contents of the

site are organized into a whole, as the contents of *YouTube* and *ProQuest* are, the site is named earlier as a container, but it still does not qualify as a publisher of the source

8. Publication date,

Use the date that is most relevant to your use of the source, it is usually the most recent date listed. If appropriate, include the time a comment was posted.

Examples:

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media."

Periodical

PLMA, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist-and the Birth of the Creative

Web site

Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, 28 Dec. 2014,

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist-and the Birth of the Creative

Periodical

Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, pp. 92-97.

Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." *So*

Web site

Many Books, 25 Apr. 2013, somanymanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain—differences-between-digital-and-print/.

"Hush." 1999. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Complete Fourth Season*, created by Joss

DVD

Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, episode 10, Twentieth Century Fox, 2003, disc 3.

Jeane. Comment on “The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print.” So

Web site

Many Books, 25 Apr. 2013, 10:30 p.m., somanymanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain—differences-between-digital-and-print/#comment-83030.

9. Location,

For a print source, use the page number(s). For an online source use the digital object identifier (DOI) rather than the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) if it is available. The DOI is sometimes called a *permalink*.

Examples:

Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media.”

Print

PLMA, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Bearden, Romare. *The Train*. 1975, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Work of art;
artifact

Chan, Evans. “Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.” *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10,

Web site

no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, [doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021](https://doi.org/10.1353/pmc.2000.0021).

Deresiewicz, William. “The Death of the Artist-and the Birth of the Creative

Web site

Entrepreneur.” *The Atlantic*, 28 Dec. 2014,

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.

“Hush.” 1999. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Complete Fourth Season*, created by Joss

DVD

Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, episode 10, Twentieth Century Fox, 2003, disc 3.

Midnightdreary. *Whittier John Greenleaf grave*. Wikimedia Commons, Oct. 2009,

Image
online

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whittier_John_Greenleaf_grave.jpg.

Accessed 30 Jan. 2017.

Copied from: <https://style.mla.org/2016/06/23/citing-an-e-book/>

How do I cite an e-book in MLA style?

An e-book—that is, a book that lacks a URL and that you use software to read on a personal device or computer—is considered a version according to the *MLA Handbook's* [template of core elements](#):

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., e-book, Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

If you know the type of e-book you consulted (e.g., Kindle, EPUB), specify it instead of “e-book”:

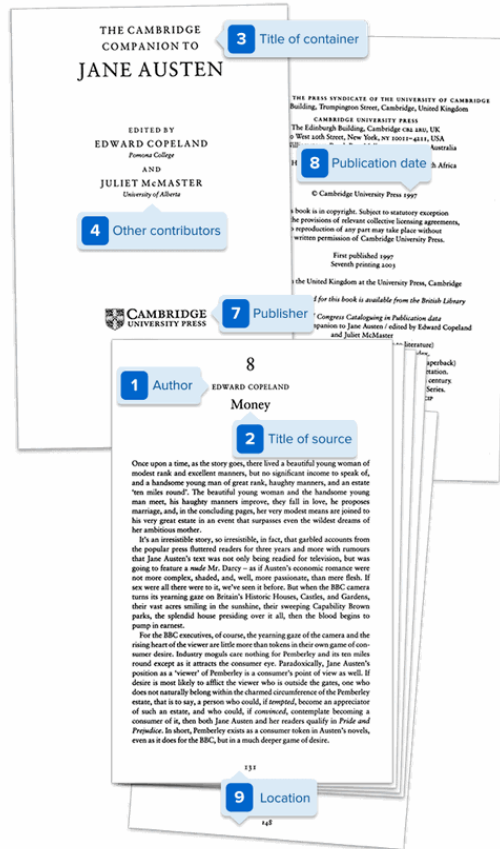
MLA Handbook. 8th ed., Kindle ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

When citing an e-book in your text, avoid using device-specific numbering systems. See section 3.3.3 for suggestions on alternative ways to identify the parts of a work.

Published 23 June 2016

A Source in a Single Container

An Essay in a Book Collection



1 Author.

Copeland, Edward.

2 Title of source.

"Money."

CONTAINER 1

3 Title of container,

The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen,

4 Other contributors,

edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

Cambridge UP,

8 Publication date,

1997,

9 Location,

pp. 131-48.

FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

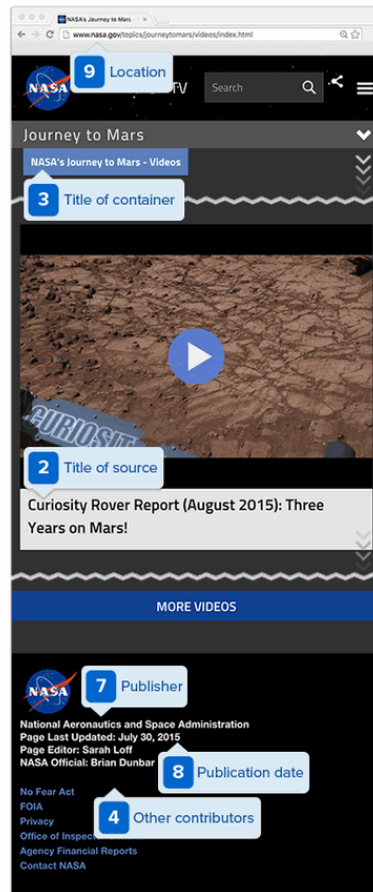
Copeland, Edward. "Money." *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48.

<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>

Works Cited: A Quick Guide

A Source in a Single Container

A Video on a Web Site



1 Author.

2 Title of source.

"Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!"

CONTAINER 1

3 Title of container,

NASA's Journey to Mars: Videos,

4 Other contributors,

edited by Sarah Loff,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

8 Publication date,

30 July 2015,

9 Location.

www.nasa.gov/topics/journeytomars/videos/index.html.

This source has no author. See pp. 24 and 55–56 of the *MLA Handbook* for more guidance.

FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

"Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!" *NASA's Journey to Mars: Videos*, edited by Sarah Loff, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 30 July 2015, www.nasa.gov/topics/journeytomars/videos/index.html.

<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-video/>

A Journal Article Retrieved from a Database



- 1 Author.
Lorensen, Jutta.
- 2 Title of source.
"Between Image and Word, Color, and Time:
Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*."

CONTAINER 1

- 3 Title of container,
African American Review.
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
vol. 40, no. 3.
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
2006.
- 9 Location,
pp. 571-86.

CONTAINER 2

- 3 Title of container,
EBSCOHost.
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location,
search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&
db=f5h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color, and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. EBSCOHost. search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live.

<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-journal/>

MLA Practice Template

1 Author.

2 Title of source,

CONTAINER 1

3 Title of container,

4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,

9 Location

CONTAINER 2

3 Title of container,

4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,

9 Location