# MLA Citation Style

MLA Handbook 8th Edition

This is the basic format for MLA citations. However, as your source changes, you will need to adapt your citation as needed

**Author**

Poe, Edgar Allan.

**Title of Source**

“The Masque of the Red Death.”

**Title of Container**

*The Complete Works of Edgar Allan* *Poe*

**Other Contributors**

edited by James A. Harrison,

**Number**

vol. 4,

**Publisher**

Thomas Y. Crowell,

**Publication Date**

1902

**Location**

pp. 250-58.

**Title of Container**

*Hathitrust Digital Library*,

**Location**

babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924079574368;view=1up;seq=266.

# Elements of Citations

**Container**—A larger whole that contains parts: a book which contains essays, stories, and poems; a periodical which holds articles or creative writing; a television series which is made up of episodes; a web site which contains articles and postings.

**Other Contributors**—Anything identified such as directors, editors, illustrators, narrators, performers, and translators. It can also include adaptations or introductions.

**Number**—Part of a number sequence. It could be volume and issue numbers, seasons, or episodes.

**Publisher**—The organization primarily responsible for producing the source or making it available to the public. It includes museums, libraries, universities, etc. This means that the library or the museum is involved in making the work, not just hosting the work.

**Publication Date**—The date when the work was published. When using online sources, cite the most recent publication date.

**Location**—The page numbers, URL, and access date.

**Additional Tips:**

* The components container (contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date and location) will repeat if your source has a secondary or larger container such as a database, online library, or online network such as Hulu or Netflix.
* The last entry in the citation is followed by a period.
* Any added information is followed by a comma.

**Books and Databases**

**Books with one Author**

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1993.

**Books with Two Authors**

Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. *The Crown of Columbus*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.

**Books with Three or More Authors**

Burdick, Anne, et al. Digital\_Humanities. MIT P, 2012.

Tip: Reverse the first name and follow with a comma and et al.

**Anthologies or Compilations as a Whole**

Nunberg, Geoffrey, editor. *The Future of the Book*. U of California P, 1996.

Tip: If the source is an edited volume of essays that need to be documented as a whole, the “author” for your purpose is the editor, the person who assembled the volume.

**Single Works in an Anthology**

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.

**Compilations with Two or More Editors**

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.

Tip: Make the descriptive label plural.

**Online Databases**

Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/41403188.

Tip: Journal articles from online databases have two containers. The first container is for the journal where the article resides. The second container is for the database in which the journal was found in. Be sure to pull information directly from the source.

**Additional Tips:**

* If a book is part of a series, include the series name, neither italicized nor in quotation marks, and the number of the book in the series at the end of the last entry.
* When using one source multiple times throughout a paper, the citation for the source will list the range of the page numbers used.

# Comic Books, Web, Songs, and Performances

**Comic Books**

Clowes, Daniel. *David Boring. Eightball*, no. 19, Fantagraphics, 1998.

Tip: They are commonly numbered like journals.

**Web Publications**

Hollmichel, Stefanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-13, somanybooksblog.com.

Tip: Put the title of the website in Italics.

**Website—Postings or an Articles**

Hollmichel, Stefanie. “The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print.” *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/.

Tip: The article is placed in quotation marks.

**Web Projects as a Whole**

Eaves, Morris, et al., editors. *The William Blake Archive*. 1996-2014, www.blakearchive.org/blake/.

Tip: Cite a range of dates if the web project was developed over time.

**Digital Object Identifiers-DOIs**

Chan, Evans. “Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.” *Postmodern Culture*, vol.10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

Tip: The DOIs are persistent links that aid in finding digital objects such as articles. DOIs consist of a series of digits and sometimes letters. They can usually be located at the bottom of the web page.

**Songs or other pieces of music**

Beyonce.“Pretty Hurts.” *Beyonce*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2013, www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media\_view=songs.

Tip: The title of the artist’s work is placed in quotation marks. The title of the album is *italicized.*

**Performances, Lectures, or another form of Live Presentations**

Atwood, Margaret. “Silencing the Scream.” *Boundaries of the Imagination Forum,* MLA Annual Convention, 29 Dec. 1993, Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

Tips: Record the location of a performance, a lecture, or another form of live presentation by naming the venue and its city, but omit the city if it is part of the venue’s name.

**Additional Tips:**

* Other people who contributed to the work such as the editor, director, or other key participants need to be credited. Place their names and titles in the other contributor part of the citation.
* Films and television are often produced and distributed by several companies. In that case, cite the organization that had the primary overall responsibility for it.
* When the source has been republished, consider giving the original publication date if it provides some insight into the work’s creation immediately after the source’s title.

# Translation, Emphasis, Corporate Author, and Periodicals

**Translations/ Translators**

Fagiih, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-. *The Singing of the Stars,* translated by Leila El Khalid and Christopher Tingley*. Short Arabic Plays: An Anthology*, edited by Salma Khaddra Jayyusi, Interlink Books, 2003, pp. 140-57.

Tip: If the focus is on the translation from another language, then treat the translator as the author.

Sullivan, Alan, and Timothy Murphy, translators. *Beowulf*. Edited by Sarah Anderson, Pearson, 2004.

Tip: Some stories and poems in an anthology are often translated by various people. Identify the translators before the title of the source rather than after the collection.

**Emphasis on the performer**

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

**Emphasis on the Whole**

*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

**Corporate Authors— Institutions, Associations, Government Agencies, etc.**

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries.* Taylor and Francis, 1991.

Tip: If the organization is both the corporate author and its publisher, begin the entry with the title. The organization will be placed as publisher.

**Periodicals— Journal, Magazine, and Newspaper**

Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no.1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

Tip: The title of the periodical is set in italics, and the title of an article in the periodical goes in quotation marks.

**Additional Tips:**

* An issue of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) usually carries a date on its cover or title page. Issues may appear every year, season, month, week, or day.
* If a work in a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) is not printed on consecutive pages, then on the location entry, put the first page number followed by a plus sign.

# Untitled, Tweets, Emails, Lectures, and U.S. Congress

**Untitled Sources**

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

Tip: When a source is untitled, provide a generic description of it, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks, in place of a title. Capitalize the first word of the description and any proper nouns in it.

**Untitled Reviews**

Jean. Comment on “The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print.” So Many Books, 25

Apr. 2013, 10:30pm., somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/#comment-83030.

Tip: If what you quoted is connected to another document, then the description may include the title of another work.

**Tweets**

@persiankiwi. “We have report of large street battle in east & west of Tehran now- #Iranelection.” *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072.

Tip: Reproduce its full text, without any changes, in place of a title. The text goes into quotation marks. Do not capitalize the text like a title.

**Emails**

Boyle, Anthony T. “Re: Utopia.” Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997.

**Lectures or other Addresses**

*Fresh Air*. Narrated by Terry Gross, National Public Radio, 20 May 2008. Transcript.

Tip: In this case, “Transcript” indicates that you did not listen to the broadcast. If the source is an unexpected type of work, a lecture, or other address, you may identify the type with a descriptive word.

**Bills, Reports, or Resolutions of the United States Congress**

United States, Congress, House, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. *Al-Qaeda: The Many Faces of an Islamist Extremist Threat*. Government Printing Office, 2006. 109th Congress, 2nd session, House Report 615.

Tip: Include the number and the session of Congress from which it emerged.

**Additional Tips:**

* For websites, the publishers are usually organizations, including museums, libraries, universities, and their departments.
* A website not involved in producing the works it makes available (ex. *Wordpress.com, YouTube, JSTOR* or *ProQuest*) are considered containers, not publishers.
* Inclusion of the URL is recommended, but follow your teacher’s direction if your instructor does not want them included.