# MLA Style – Core Elements

MLA style is a set of guidelines established by the Modern Language Association for presenting written research. See: *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed., MLA, 2021.

## Author.

Last Name, First Name (*MLA 5.3*).

Example: Dunbar, Eve.

## Title of Source.

Title of the journal article, book, collection of essays. The title is put in quotation marks if it is part of a larger work. The title is italicized if it is independent (i.e. title of a book)(*MLA* 5.25).

Example: “Hip Hop: Reimagining Black Women and Agency through Hip Hop Fiction.”

## Title of Container,

What the source was found in, such as the title of a periodical, name of a website, name of a TV series, title of a book that is a collection of essays (*MLA* 5.31).

Example: *The Wiley Blackwell Anthology of African American Literature,*

## Contributor,

Other people credited with creating the source. Include the description of the role. Example: edited by, translated by, directed by (*MLA* 5.38).

Example: edited by Gene Andrew Jarrett,

## Version,

The edition of the source or description of the version. Example: 7th ed., or Authorized King James Version, or e-book ed., (*MLA* 5.48).

**Example**: e-book ed.,

## Number,

Volume and/or issue number (if available). Could also be a TV episode or comic book number (*MLA* 5.51).

Example: vol. 1,

## Publisher,

The organization responsible for making the source public (*MLA* 5.59).

Example: John Wiley and Sons,

## Publication Date,

If a full date is available, use the day-month-year format such as 3 Oct. 2014. (*MLA* 5.77).

Example: 2014,

## Location.

Where the source is. Can be a page number, DOI, or URL, name of a museum, city, or a street name. Use p. for a single page and pp. for a page range (MLA 5.84).

Example: pp. 91-112.

## Title of Container 2,

When a container such as a book or journal is nested in another container, often a database. (*MLA* 5.102).

Example: *ProQuest Ebook Central*,

## Location.

Location of container 2.

Example: ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/lansing/detail.action?docID=1581437.

## Completed Citation

The core elements on the previous page combined to make this citation:

Dunbar, Eve. “Hip Hop: Reimagining Black Women and Agency through Hip Hop Fiction.” *The Wiley Blackwell Anthology of African American Literature,* edited by Gene Andrew Jarrett,e-book ed.,vol. 1, John Wiley and Sons, 2014, pp. 91-112*. ProQuest Ebook Central*, ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/lansing/detail.action?docID=1581437.

## Publisher Names

Cite publishers’ names in full as they appear on title or copyright pages. For example, cite the entire name for a publisher (e.g. W. W. Norton or Liveright Publishing). Exceptions are listed below:

* Omit articles and business abbreviations (like Corp., Inc., Co., and Ltd.).
* If there is an ampersand, (&) replace with “and.”
* Use the acronym of the publisher if the company is commonly known by that abbreviation (e.g. MLA, ERIC, GPO). For publishers not known by an abbreviation, write the entire name.
* Use only U and P when referring to university presses (e.g. Cambridge UP or U of Chicago P)

## Months

Month names used in journal and magazine citations: Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

## Geographic Names

Use geographic names of states and countries. Abbreviate country, province, and state names, for example, Logan, UT and Manchester, Eng.

## Scholarly Abbreviations

List common scholarly abbreviations as they appear below:

* anon. for anonymous
* p. for page, pp. for pages
* par. for paragraph when page numbers are unavailable
* ch. for chapter
* qtd. in for quoted in
* dept. for department
* rev. for revised
* ed. for edition
* sec. for section
* et al. for multiple names (translates to “and others”)
* ser. for series
* fwd. for foreword
* trans. for translation
* jour. for journal
* U for University (e.g. Purdue U)
* lib. for library
* UP for University Press (for example, Yale UP or U of California P)
* no. for number
* P for Press (used for academic presses)
* vol. for volume