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