



Updated 02/22/2023

The Library & Learning Commons CITATION @ Laurier: The MLA and You

(Used in English, Arts and Language Classes)

Much of the following is adapted from information provided at OWL @ Purdue owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

The MLA's 9th edition is designed to have a general method for any form of reference material. This "principles over prescription" method is more flexible and should be easier to follow than previous versions of MLA.

In-Text Citations (Parenthetical) are still used by students to indicate that something has been taken from another source. "Relevant source information can be found in parentheses after a quotation of paraphrase" (MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics). These parenthetical citations correspond with the entries in the Works Cited list, which include more information, allowing the reader a full picture of the reference material used by the student.

The Works Cited List

The MLA uses **nine** bins to determine order and format for a citation. These bins are found below, and each would be followed by the punctuation as follows;

1. Name of the Author(s).
2. Title of Source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

So, what's with these bins?

1. Name of Author

Begin the entry with the author's last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name, as presented in the work. When a book has multiple authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book.

2. Title of Source

A resource that is published on its own should be in italics. This includes plays (that are not published with other works), books, websites as well as other sources.

A resource that is published as part of a larger collection should use quotation marks. This includes sources such as journal, magazines or newspaper articles, poems published in collections, works in anthologies.

3. Title of Container.

Consider these the larger vehicle from where your source came. If a short story was in an anthology, the name of the anthology would be used. (I.e., Echoes 12). This applies to poems, plays, articles, and other sources that are part of a larger whole.

Tip #3: If the source is produced independently and is not part of a larger whole, skip this.

4. Other Contributors

Authors write, but there might be other people who require credit. These include editors, illustrators, translators and other positions.

Tip #4: Titles like editor, illustrator and translator are to be written in full, not abbreviated.

Tip #5: If nobody else helped produce this source, you can also skip this.

5. Version

If a source is a subsequent version or edition of an original source, include that info.

6. Number

Sometimes a source is part of a numbered series. This can be the case of a Journal with has volume/issue numbers. It can also be included in an anthology. It can also be the case for some graphic text (I.e., Manga)

7. Publisher

The publisher is responsible for producing or distributing this information. Usually this is a publishing company (Like Penguin Classics or the CBC).

Tip #6: The Publisher is not needed for periodicals, self-published works, a web site with the same name as the publisher or a site the displays works but doesn't publish (i.e., YouTube)

8. Publication Date

This is the date of publication. Generally be specific as possible, but the bare minimum required is the year of publication.

The same source might have been published on more than one date. If you have multiple dates, select the original (oldest) date.

9. Location

It is important that you be as specific as possible to identify the location of a work. If the source is part of a larger printed source, include page numbers (i.e., pp 8-15). The location of an online work should include the full URL. (do not include https://)

Each citation you create is included in your **Works Cited** list that can be found at the back of your essay. In the Works Cited list, all sources are listed in alphabetical order, based on the first letter of the entry. (Entries with numbers as the first character go after the alpha-based entries)

Some Examples Would Be Nice

They sure would! Here are examples of the more common forms of resources cited in student essays using the MLA format.

Novel

Donaghue, Emma. *Slammerkin*. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2000.

Stand Alone Play

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. 2nd edition, Harcourt Canada Ltd, 2003.

Play that is part of a larger published work

Sophocles. "Oedipus the King." *The Three Theban Plays*, Translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics, 1984. pp. 155-251.

Source that is part of an anthology (This would work for a poem, short story, essay, etc.,)

Lohans, Alison. "The Michelle I Know." *Crossroads 10*, Gage Educational Publishing Company, pp. 16-23.

A Film (Citing the film as a whole)

Lethal Weapon. Directed by Richard Donner, Warner Bros, 1987.

Journal Article found in an Online Database

Nash, Carol. "Doodling as a Measure of Burnout in Healthcare Researchers." *Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry*, vol. 45, no. 4, Dec. 2021, pp. 565–598. *EBSCOhost*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11013-020-09690-6>.

A Web Article

Benchetrit, Jenna. "That Signature sound from some of music's best hits? Made in Canada." *CBC News*, May 9, 2022, www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/canadian-producers-shaping-pop-music-1.6444552. Accessed 13 May, 2022.

A Web Page (With No Author or Date of Publication provided)

"Student Information." *Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute*, www.sirwilfridlaurierci.ca/students-parents/student-information. Accessed 13 May, 2022.

YouTube Video

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

For more information, please consult your Teacher-Librarian or OWL @ Purdue, which offers a comprehensive guide on citation rules.

So What Does This Look Like in the Real World?

The First Page

Your header includes your name, your instructor's name, your course code and the date. That information is to be double spaced, followed by the title of your essay.

Will de Laurier

Mr. Welsh

ENG4U1-12

22 November 2017

Jane Eyre: From childhood to womanhood through the process of self-realization

In *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte, the path that Jane Eyre takes as she moves from childhood to fulfilled womanhood allows her to learn how to incorporate three distinct personalities: those of the imp, the virtuous woman and the Vampyre into her adult personality. These are the three images in the mirror that are presented to her at significant/pivotal points in her life. In the first mirror scene, Jane is reflected as a malignant imp, in the second, she is the virtuous woman moulded by the values of Lowood; and in the third, the face of the sexual Vampyre is reflected back to her. These three mirror scenes mark her integration of the lessons taught by these visions into her final incarnation as a mature woman who is passionate, loving and strong. Only then can she be the equal of her chosen partner, Rochester: a strong woman with depth and meaning and a voice to express herself.

As a baby, Jane is given into the care of her mother's family when she is orphaned. She is loved by her maternal uncle, who unfortunately passes away, and she is despised by her aunt and cousins. So her childhood becomes "as bleak and cold as the Arctic sketches in her favourite book" (Bronte 10). Jane is a lonely, young child who lacks sense of belonging and has a deep longing for kinship. Ignored and unacknowledged, she has no voice with which to express herself. She is "labelled as a bad animal and Jane has no place in her Aunt Reed's luxurious home" (Bronte 11).

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Your surname is followed by the page number on all pages

Your parenthetical citation for books includes your author or author's name(s) and the page number. There are variations to this. A web page without an author would need the Article title in parentheses.

So What Does This Look Like in the Real World?

The Final Page

The last page of your essay, includes the Works Cited. The title for this page is centred in plain text.

Also remember to include your name and page number in the header.

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Works Cited

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Arcturus Holdings Ltd., 1956.

Lethal Weapon. Directed by Richard Donner, Warner Bros, 1987.

Nash, Carol. "Doodling as a Measure of Burnout in Healthcare Researchers." *Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry*, vol. 45, no. 4, Dec.2021, pp.565-598. EBSCOhost, doi.org/10/1007/s11013-020-09690-6.

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. 2nd edition, Harcourt Canada Ltd., 2003.