

## MLA Style (8th edition): General Guidelines

July, 2016

Library Media Center URL: [lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/](http://lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/)

MLA Online Style Center URL: [style.mla.org](http://style.mla.org)

MLA Practice Template URL: [style.mla.org/files/2016/04/practice-template.pdf](http://style.mla.org/files/2016/04/practice-template.pdf)

In the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*, the resource's publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, "How do I cite a book or DVD or Web page?" the writer creates an entry including MLA's list of core elements. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown unless it is the final element, in which case it should end with a period. :

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

## AUTHOR.

- Begin the entry with the author's last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name.
- When the source has two authors, include both beginning with the last name on the first author and second name in normal order.
- When a source has three or more authors, list the first author beginning with the last name and follow with a comma and et al. ("and others").

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

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

Burdick, Anne, et al. *Digital Humanities*. MIT P, 2012.

- Use the editor if it's an edited volume.

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

- In film and television, if your discussion focuses on an actor or screenwriter, begin the entry with his or her name, followed by a descriptive label.

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

Whedon, Joss, creator. *Buffy the vampire Slayer*. Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.

- Authors may be institutions or associations.

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

- If no author's or editor's name is indicated, begin the entry with the title.
- If you utilize more than one source by the same author, give the author's name in the first entry only. In subsequent entries, in place of the name, type three hyphens.

They stand for exactly the same name as in the preceding entry. The three hyphens are usually followed by a period and then the title. If the person named performed a different role (editor, translator, director, etc), add a comma and the role before the period.

Turner, Elizabeth Hutton. Introduction. Turner, *Jacob Lawrence*, pp. 13-15.

---, editor. *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*. Rappahannock Press / Phillips Collection, 1993.

## TITLE OF SOURCE.

- Titles are taken from the source with capitalization and punctuation between main title and subtitle standardized. Include a colon between title and subtitle. The title is italicized if the source is independent, and placed in quotation marks if part of a larger work.

Joyce, Michael. *Othermindedness: The Emergence of Network Culture*. U of Michigan P, 2000.

Coontz, Stephanie. "Not Much Sense in Those Census Numbers." *Uncommon Threads: Reading and Writing about Contemporary America*, edited by Robert D. Newman et al., Longman, 2003, pp. 14648.

- The title of a periodical (magazine, journal or newspaper) is italicized; the title of the article is in quotation marks. This rule applies across media forms. The title of a television series – italics. The title of an episode of a television series – quotation marks. Title of a web site – italics. Posting or article at a web site – quotation marks. Song on an album – quotation marks.

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, Vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. (article in journal)

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999. (television episode)

Hollmichel, Stefanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-2013, somanybooksblog.com. (web site)

Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013, [somanycbooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/](http://somanycbooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/). (article at a web site)

- When you document an e-mail message, use its subject as the title. The subject is enclosed in quotation marks.

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

### **TITLE OF CONTAINER,**

When the source forms a part of a larger whole, the larger whole is considered a **container** that holds the source. The title of the container is italicized. The container may be a book that is a collection of essays or poems. It may be a journal or magazine which holds articles; a television series, made up of episodes; or a web site with articles or postings. Sometimes there are two containers; Academic Search Complete (database) contains journals or magazines which contain articles.

## A Source in a Single Container

### An Essay in a Book Collection

The image shows a page from 'The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen' with several callouts pointing to specific information:

- 1 Author:** EDWARD COPELAND
- 2 Title of source:** Money
- 3 Title of container:** THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO JANE AUSTEN
- 4 Other contributors:** EDITED BY EDWARD COPELAND AND JULIET McMASTER
- 5 Version:** (The page number 131 is indicated)
- 6 Number:** (The page number 148 is indicated)
- 7 Publisher:** CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
- 8 Publication date:** 1997
- 9 Location:** pp. 131-48

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

#### 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.

## A Source in Two Containers

### A Journal Article Retrieved from a Database

The screenshot shows a search result for the article "Between Image and Word, Color and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*" by Jutta Lorenzen. The article is published in *African American Review*, Volume 40, Number 3, 2006, pages 571-86. The abstract discusses Lawrence's visual narrative of the Great Migration of African Americans from the agrarian South to industrialized cities in the North of the US. The article is available on EBSCOHost.

- 1 Author.  
Lorenzen, 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

Lorenzen, 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.

## **OTHER CONTRIBUTORS,**

Other people may be credited as contributors, if their participation is important to your research or to the identification of the work: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, narrated by, translated by, etc.

Chartier, Roger. *The Order of books: Readers, Authors, and Libraries in Europe between the Fourteenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. Translated by Lydia G. Cochrane, Stanford UP, 1994.

“Hush.” *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.  
(television episode)

## **VERSION,**

Books are commonly issued in versions called editions. Works in other media may also appear in versions.

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

Scott, Ridley, director. *Blade Runner*. 1982. Performance by Harrison Ford, director’s cut, Warner Bros., 1992.

## **NUMBER,**

If your source uses a numbering system, include the number in your entry. If you consult one volume of a numbered multi-volume set, indicate the volume number. Journal issues and comic books are typically numbered. The seasons of a television series are numbered, as are the episodes in a season.

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

Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading.” *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

## **PUBLISHER,**

- The publisher is the organization primarily responsible for producing the source. If two or more are named and are equally responsible, cite both, separating the names with a forward slash. For a book, look first on the title page; if not there, look on the copyright page.
- When referencing a work in film or television, cite the organization that had primary responsibility.
- Web sites are published by various kinds of organizations; the publisher's name is often located in a copyright notice at the bottom of the home page or on a page with related information (About Us, as an example).
- A publisher's name may be omitted in: a journal, magazine or newspaper; a web site whose title is the same as the publisher; or a web site not involved in producing the works like YouTube or WordPress.

Lessig, Lawrence. *Remix: Making Art and Commerce Thrive in the Hybrid Economy*. Penguin Press, 2008. (book)

Kuzul, Fran Rubel, director. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1992. (television program)

*2005 Assisted Reproductive Technology Success Rates: National Summary and Fertility Clinic Reports*. United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oct. 2007, [www.cdc.gov/art/ART2005/508PDF/2005ART508.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/art/ART2005/508PDF/2005ART508.pdf).

## **Publication date,**

When a source carries more than one date, cite the date that is most relevant. Books typically list one date of publication. Whether to give the year alone or include a month and day, depends on your source; write the full date as you find it.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage Books, 1995.

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, pp. 92-97.

Belton, John. "Painting by the Numbers: The Digital Intermediate." *Film Quarterly*, vol. 61, no. 3, Spring, 2008, pp. 58-65.

"*Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Unaired Pilot*1996." *YouTube*, uploaded by Brian Stowe, 28 Jan. 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR3J-v7QXXw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR3J-v7QXXw).

## Location.

- Citing a work's location depends on the medium. In print sources, indicate page number or range of page numbers (preceded by p. or pp.).
- The location of an online work is indicated by the URL. Some publishers assign DOIs, or digital object identifiers, to their online publication. If available, cite using a DOI.
- The location of a television episode in a DVD set is indicated by the disc number.
- A physical object that is experienced firsthand, such as a work of art, is located in a place. Give the name of the place and of its city (but omit the city if it is part of the place's name).

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, pp. 92-97.

*Visualizing Emancipation*. Directed by Scott Nesbit and Edward L. Ayers, [dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/](http://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/).

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

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

# MLA Practice Template

1 Author.

2 Title of source.

CONTAINER 1

3 Title of container,

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CONTAINER 2

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4 Other contributors,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication date,

9 Location.