



MLA Citations Quick Guide

MLA References

The standard citation style guide for the humanities, especially languages and literature, is the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, 2016. The Modern Language Association of America (MLA) publishes the manual.

Multiple subject areas at RBC recommend MLA format for papers written within that specific field. When you are assigned paper or project for a class at RBC, be sure to pay close attention to the citation style that is required.

Two types of citations are included in most research papers and projects:

- 1) Citations within the text of the document
- 2) A list of reference citations at the end of the document

In-Text Citations:

In-text citations only appear in the body of your paper. They identify your use of an idea of quotation from one of your sources. The *MLA Handbook* uses the author-page citation system for in-text citations.

Reference Citations:

Information about the sources you use in your work are included as a separate list at the end of the paper. The *MLA Handbook* suggests using the title "Works Cited" for the list.

Any source information that you provide in an in-text citation MUST correspond to a source in your Works Cited Page.

MLA Works Cited Core Elements

Works Cited references are made up of a list of core elements. The core elements allow writers to create reference citations for any type of source, regardless of the medium.

1) Author. Personal author(s), editor(s), corporate author, director

2) Title of Source. Book title, article title, chapter title, title of TV episode, film title.

3) Title of container, Book title, journal title, title of TV series

4) Other contributors, Translators, performers

5) Version, Edition, abridged/unabridged, director's cut

6) Number, Volume and issue numbers, season and episode numbers

7) Publisher, Publishers, university presses, organizations, governments, production companies

8) Publication date, Use the date most pertinent to you; if multiple dates are listed, use the most recent; full dates are given in this format: 24 Aug. 2016

9) Location. Page number(s), web address, DOI, stable URL, time on a recording, DVD disc number

Things to Remember

- If a core element does not exist or cannot be found, simply omit the element from the Works Cited entry.
- Include a DOI (digital object identifier) when available.
- The URL, without http:// or https://, should be included for Web resources.
- In the Works Cited entry, "p." is used before citing a page number and "pp." is used before citing a page range.

Examples

Material Type	In-Text Citation	Works Cited
Book with one author	(Daniels 45)	Daniels, Roger. <i>Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II</i> . Hill and Wang, 2004.
Book with two authors	(Benjes-Small and Miller 2)	Benjes-Small, Candice and Rebecca K. Miller. <i>The New Instruction Librarian</i> . The American Library Association, 2017.
Book with three or more authors	(Upson et al. 29)	Upson, Matt, et al. <i>Information Now: A Graphic Guide to Student Research</i> . University of Chicago Press, 2015.
Electronic book	(Mensch and Mensch 24)	Mensch, Elaine and Harry Mensch. <i>Black, White, and Huckleberry Finn: Re-Imagining the American Dream</i> . University of Alabama Press, 2000, <i>EBSCOhost</i> , search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=44567&site=ehost-live.
Chapter/essay from a book	(Eberstadt 186)	Eberstadt, Nicholas. "The World Can Sustain Its Growing Population." <i>Poverty: Opposing Viewpoints</i> , edited by Karen Balkin, Greenhaven Press, 2004, pp.185-188.
Article from a scholarly journal in a database	(Hanford and Snarey, 294)	Hanford, Russell and John R. Snarey. "Parenting Huckleberry Finn." <i>Journal of Moral Education</i> , vol. 30, no. 3, Sept. 2001, pp. 293-297. <i>EBSCOhost</i> , doi:10.1080/03057240120077309.
Page of a website (article, blog post, etc.)	(Coleman)	Coleman, Nancy. "First woman enlists to become Navy SEAL." <i>Cable News Network (CNN)</i> . Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., 22 Jul. 2017.
Video (YouTube or other)	(OWLPurdue)	OWLPurdue. "MLA Style: In-Text Citations (8 th Ed., 2016)." <i>YouTube</i> , commentary by Eliza Gellis, OWLPurdue, 5 Apr. 2017, https://youtu.be/3aN_OSMbnsI .
Image (including painting, sculpture, or photograph)	(van Gogh)	van Gogh, Vincent. <i>The Starry Night</i> . 1889. <i>Museum of Modern Art</i> , https://www.moma.org/collection/works/79802?locale=en .
Social media post (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	(@RBCStatesman)	@RBCStatesman. "Commencement at RBC is underway! #rbcstatesmen #Commencement2017." <i>Twitter</i> , 13 May 2017, 12:19 p.m., https://twitter.com/RBCStatesmen/status/863473785776869378 .

Additional Resources

RBC Writing and Citation LibGuide (explanations, examples, and links to additional resources):

<http://libguides.rbc.edu/c.php?q=484846>

Ask-A-Librarian (personal assistance available in-person, chat, phone, or e-mail): <https://www.rbc.edu/library/get-help/>

MLA Style Center (sample papers, FAQs, and downloadable practice templates): <https://style.mla.org/>