

# MLA (Modern Language Association) Referencing System

## An introduction

### Q. Why do you need to reference?

#### A. To show your teacher where you have conducted your research

It is important that you always acknowledge another author's work when preparing an assignment.

The reference you provide becomes the link between how you have conducted your research and what you have written. It shows your teacher the resources you have used, for example book, website, magazine or newspaper article.

It is also important that you do not just copy the work of another person and submit it as your own. This is called PLAGARISM and is a type of theft or fraud. The accuracy of direct quotations is crucial. They must reproduce the original sources exactly.

It is also important to remember that you must supply a reference to any idea that is taken and you have put into your own words.

## In-Text Citations

This is a major component of MLA referencing and is inserted in your text to indicate the source you have consulted. This in-text citation should clearly direct any reader of your assignment directly to the works in your works-cited list.

A typical in-text citation is composed of the element that comes first in the entry in the works-cited list (usually the author's surname) and the page number. It is placed if possible where there is a natural pause in the text; usually at the end of a quote, sentence or paragraph.

## Containers

The concept of containers is crucial to MLA style. When the source being documented forms part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container that holds the source. For example, a short story may be contained in an anthology. The short story is the source, and the anthology is the container.

The title of the container is normally italicised and is followed by a comma, since the information that comes next describes the container. The container may be a book that is a collection of essays, stories, poems, or other kinds of works.

**Bazin, Patrick. "Toward Metareading." *The Future of the Book*, edited by Geoffrey Nunberg, University of California Press, 1996, pp. 193-200.**



## Quotations

If a prose quotation runs to no more than four lines, put it in quotation marks and include it in the text.

**“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” wrote Charles Dickens of the Eighteenth century.**

If a quotation extends to more than four lines, set it off from the text as a block indented from the left margin. Do not indent the first line or add quotation marks not present in the original.

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph, realizing the horror of his actions, is overcome by great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench, his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too (186).

At the completion of your assignment or essay you also create a **“Works Cited”** list of all the material you quote and refer to in your assignment.

### The basics of MLA referencing - Works Cited list

#### Core elements for a book

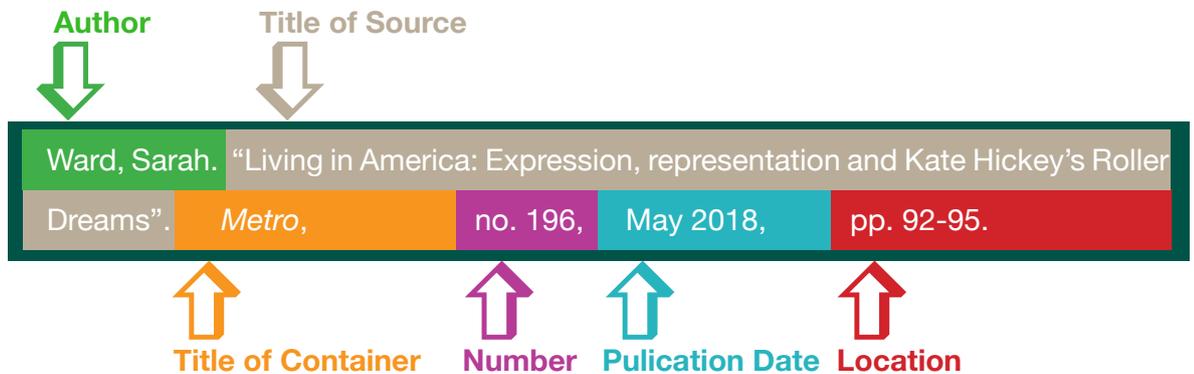
- Author: Surname, First name.
- *Title of the container.* – (In italics)
- Publisher,
- Publication date. (This full stop is replaced by a comma if you providing location details.)
- Location. (In print sources this is the page number (preceded by a p.) or a range of page numbers (preceded by pp.)

Author	Title	Publisher	Publication Date	Location
Howard, Tom.	Hardy country,	Regency House,	1995,	pp. 57-60.



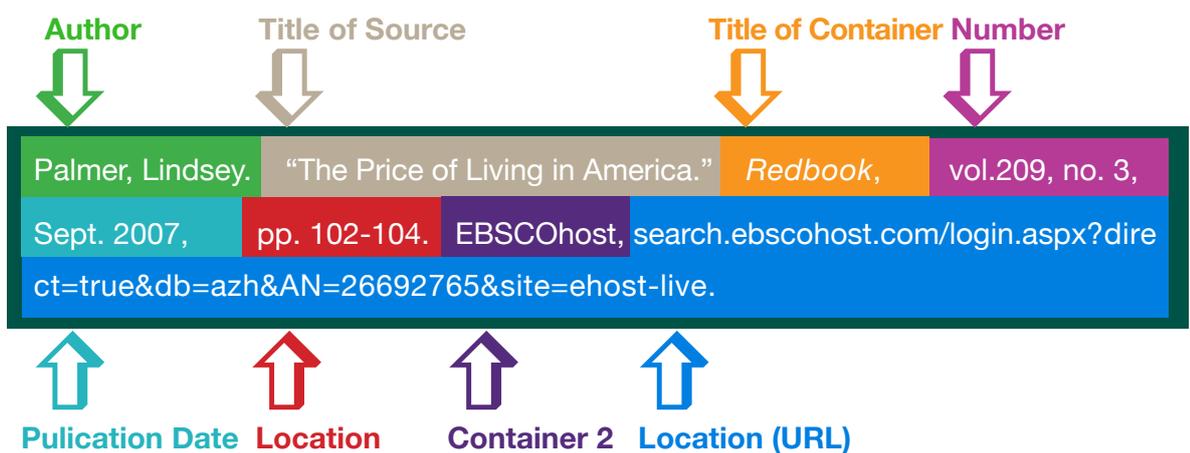
## Core elements for a journal - Print

- Author: Surname, First name.
- Title of the source. (Placed in inverted commas)
- Title of the container, (In italics)
- Number,
- Publication date,
- Location.



## Core elements for a journal – Database

Which includes Container no. 2 & 2nd location requirements



## Book – One author

### In-text

The majority of books “that Austen read were borrowed from libraries” (Byrne 77). Without libraries we may not have the Jane Austen novels we love today.

### Works cited

Byrne, Paula. *The Real Jane Austen*, Harper Press, 2013, p. 77.

## More than one work by an author

### In-text

If you cite more than one work by an author, include a shortened title for the particular work from which you are quoting to distinguish it from the others. Put short titles of books in italics and short titles of articles in quotation marks.

The majority of books “that Austen read were borrowed from libraries” (Byrne, *Real Jane Austen* 77). Without libraries we may not have the Jane Austen novels we love today.

### Works cited

To document two or more works by the same author, give the author’s name in the first entry only. Thereafter, in place of the name type three hyphens. They stand for exactly the same name as the preceding entry.

Boroff, Marie. *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. U of Chicago P, 1979.

---. “Sound Symbolism as Drama in the Poetry of Robert Frost.” *PLMA*, vol. 107, no. 1, Jan. 1992, pp. 131-44. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/462806](http://www.jstor.org/stable/462806).

---. Ed. *Wallace Stevens: A Collection of Critical Essays*, Prentice-Hall, 1963.

### Edited work

Cite the work as you normally would in the works cited list, but add the editor after the title preceded by “edited by”.

### In-text

(Austen 146)

### Works cited

Austen, Jane. *The Annotated Pride & Prejudice*, edited by David M. Sheppard, revised and expanded edition, Anchor Books, 2012, p. 146.

Where the editor is the sole person of responsibility of the work, treat as an author and add “editor” after the name.

### In-text

(Copeland and McMaster 47)

### Works cited

Copeland, Edward and Juliet McMaster, editors. *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, p. 47.

## Poem or short story

The title of an essay, a story or a poem, in a collection, as a larger part of a whole, is placed in quotation marks.

### In-text

(Carver 69-92)

### Works cited

Carver, Raymond. “So much water so close to home.” *Short cuts: selected stories*. Vintage Contemporaries, 1993, pp. 69-92.



## Secondary sources

Sometimes an author of a book, article or website will mention another person's work by using a quotation or paraphrased idea from that source. This is called a secondary source. For example a book about Siegfried Sassoon by John Stuart Roberts includes a quotation about Sassoon by Oliver that he was "absolutely crushed". Cite the book in the works cited list and acknowledge the original source in your in-text citation.

### In-text

(Oliver qtd. in Roberts 246)

### Works cited

Roberts, John Stuart. *Siegfried Sassoon 1886-1967*, Richard Coen Books, 2000, p. 246.

## Citations from other sources

### Journal/Magazine (from a subscription database)

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article: Subtitle if any." *Name of Journal*, Volume Number, Issue Number, Date of Publication, pp. First Page Number-Last Page Number. Name of Database, doi:DOI number / URL. Date if required.

### In text

(King)

### Works cited

King, Daniel P. "Wilfred Owen." *World Literature Today*, 88, 6, 2014, pp. 74-75. Australia New Zealand Reference Centre Plus, doi: 10.1353pmc.2000.0021. Accessed 12 January 2021.

## Images - Photograph/painting/sculpture

Last Name, First Name. Title of Artwork, Composition date, location of institution where artwork is held (if available). Where there is no title of the artwork give a short description. Format.

### In-text

(Greeno)

### Works cited

Greeno, Lola. *Shell necklace*, 2015, Museum of Modern and New Art, Hobart. Photograph.

## Image/photograph/artwork from a book

### In-text

(Howard 33)

### Works cited

Howard, Tom. *Hardy Country*, Regency House Publishing, 1995, pp. 57-60

## Image from a Website

### In-text

(White)

### Works cited

White, John. "Tasmania". *Flickr*, 2010, flic.kr/p/bmxxpge. Accessed 12 January 2021.



# AV Materials

## TV or Film – Who do you credit?

Many people can be involved in the production of a video and not all need to be listed in the citation. Typically the director, producer and/or writer are the names that are used. To clarify what role the person has in the production; their job title such as Director is put after their name if the job title is known. The first element of your works cited list entry depends on the focus of your work. Put title first if you are talking about the work, put actor first if you are talking about performance and put director first if you are talking about direction and production.

### TV

#### In text

(Blue Jasmine 00:15:20-45)

#### Works cited

Allen, Woody, writer and director. *Blue Jasmine*, Gravier Productions, 2013. DVD.

## Podcast radio program (with known author)

Creator information may often be found under a section called “About” for some types of websites and social media, however this is not always standard.

#### In-text

(Kanowski)

#### Works cited

Kanowski, Sarah. “Jonathan Franzen in conversation.” *RN: Books and Arts*, 1 July 2016, URL. Accessed 1 February 2017.

## YouTube (without a known author)

#### In-text

(North by Northwest Tribute)

#### Works cited

“North by Northwest Tribute 50th Anniversary: trailer”. *YouTube*, 13 Dec. 2009, URL. Accessed 1 February 2017.

## Website

It is always a good idea to maintain personal copies of electronic information, when possible. Use the Bookmark function in your web browser so you can return to documents more easily.

The 8th edition of MLA recommends including URLs when you cite online sources. It is a good idea to always check with your teacher first if this is what they wish and include URLs at their discretion.

If you include the URL or web address to help readers to locate your sources. Do not include the https://.

#### In-text

(Constantine)

#### Works cited

Constantine, Reviewed. “Book Of A Lifetime: Silas Marner, By George Eliot”. *The Independent*, 2017, [www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html). Accessed 2 February 2017.

If you are using a subscription or scholarly database, articles you use from these sources may include a DOI (digital object identifier). If a DOI is available, you can cite the DOI number instead of a URL.



## Works cited list

## Alphabetical order in Works cited list

When putting works in alphabetical order, ignore initial articles. For example the title The Wisdom of George Eliot would be alphabetized as if it started with the word Wisdom instead of the word The.

- Allen, Woody, writer and director. *Blue Jasmine*, Gravier Productions, 2013. DVD.
- Austen, Jane. *The Annotated Pride & Prejudice*, edited by David M. Sheppard, revised 4 expanded edition, Anchor Books, 2012, p. 146.
- Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communications Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.
- Boroff, Marie. *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. U of Chicago P, 1979.
- . "Sound Symbolism as Drama in the Poetry of Robert Frost." *PLMA*, vol. 107, no. 1, Jan. 1992, pp. 131-44. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/462806](http://www.jstor.org/stable/462806).
- . Editor. *Wallace Stevens: A Collection of Critical Essays*, Prentice-Hall, 1963.
- Constantine, Reviewed. "Book Of A Lifetime: Silas Marner, By George Eliot". *The Independent*, 2017, [www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html). Accessed 2 February 2017.
- Copeland, Edward and Juliet McMatter, editors. *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, p. 47.
- Greeno, Lola. *Shell necklace* 2015, Museum of Modern and New Art, Hobart. Photograph.
- Howard, Tom. *Hardy Country*, Regency House Publishing, 1995, p. 57-60.
- Kanowski, Sarah. "Jonathan Franzen in conversation." *RN: Books and Arts*, 1 July 2016, URL. Accessed 1 February 2017.
- King, Daniel P. "Wilfred Owen." *World Literature Today*, 88, 6 2014, pp. 74-75. Australia New Zealand Reference Centre Plus, DOI:ID 1353/pmc.2000.0021. Accessed 12 January 2021.
- North by Northwest Tribute 50th Anniversary: trailer. *YouTube*. 13 Dec. 2009, URL. Accessed 1 February 2017.
- Palmer, Lindsey. "The Price of Living in America." *Redbook*, vol.209, no. 3, Sept. 2007, pp. 102-104. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=azh&AN=26692765&site=ehost-live](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=azh&AN=26692765&site=ehost-live).
- Roberts, John Stuart. *Siegfried Sassoon 1886-1967*. Richard Coen Books, 2000, p. 246.
- Ward, Sarah. "Living in America: Expression, representation and Kate Hickey's Roller Dreams". *Metro*, no. 196, May 2018, pp. 92-95.
- White, John. "Tasmania". *Flickr*, 2010, [flic.kr/p/bmxxpge](http://flic.kr/p/bmxxpge). Accessed 12 January 2021.

