MLA: A Template for Commonly Cited Sources

\*\*\*Based on the 8th Edition of MLA\*\*\*

General Rules/Guidelines

* If the source you are citing does not have one of the elements listed in the template(s) below, omit that element. The overarching philosophy is “work with what you have.”
* Titles of freestanding works (not contained in anything larger) are *italicized.* Titles of smaller works contained within larger works, such as articles in a newspaper, are put “in quotation marks.”
* If an entry in your bibliography runs for more than one line, the second and all subsequent lines should be indented.
* In its 8th edition, MLA instructs that an access date for web material is optional. They suggest, however, that it is particularly helpful to include this information if you believe the web material will be altered or moved at a later date.

**An article from an academic journal accessed through an electronic database**

Formula

Author last name, Author first name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Academic Journal*, vol. #, no. #, Publication

year, pp. inclusive page numbers. *Name of Database,* DOI or stable URL.

Example

Newsom, Robert. “*Vilette* and *Bleak House*: Authorizing Women.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature,* vo. 46., no.

1, pp. 54-81. *JSTOR,* doi: 10.2307/3044963

* Look for a DOI [Digital Object Identifier] on the title page or the first page of the article. If you cannot find one, provide the URL where you accessed the article instead. Look for what’s often labeled as a “stable URL” or “permalink.”

**An article from a newspaper or a magazine read online**

Formula

Author last name, author first name. “Title of article.” *Title of Newspaper or Magazine,* Day Month Year.

URL.

Example

Belson, Ken. “The NFL’s Obesity Scourge.” *The New York Times*, 17 Jan. 2019. https://www.nytimes.com /2019/01/17/sports/football/the-nfls-obesity.scourge.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories& pgtype=Homepage

(over)

**Material from a website**

Formula

Author last name, Author first name. “Title of material.” *Title of website*, Publisher of website (if notably

different from the title of the website itself), Day Month Year, URL.

Example

Clay, Joanna. “How Driverless Cars Will Change the World, in Ways You Never Imagined.” *USC News*,

University of Southern California, 10 Jan. 2019, https://news.usc.edu/153502/how-driverless-cars-will-change-the-world-in-ways-you-never-imagined/

**A book**

Formula

Author last name, Author first name. *Title of Book*. Editors or translators, if appropriate, edition # if

appropriate. Publishing House: Publication Year of the edition you are using. *Name of website,* URL

(only include if you read the book online)

Examples

Dickens, Charles. *Bleak House*. Vintage Classics: 2012

Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina.* Translated by Richard Peaver and Larissa Volokhonsky. Penguin: 2004.

Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*. Thomas Nelson & Sons: 1906. *Google Books*,

https://books.google.com/books?id=Bg8WAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=david+copperfield&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjBqde30vXfAhVmIjQIHRzcDtcQ6AEINTAC#v=onepage&q=david%20copperfield&f=false

**An e-book that you read on a personal device (Kindle, iPad, etc.)**

Formula

Author’s last name, Author’s first name. *Title*. Format of e-book, Publisher, Year.

Example

Alderman, Naomi. *The Power.* Kindle ed., Back Bay Books: 2017.

**A chapter or selection from an edited collection**

Formula

Author last name, Author first name. “Title of chapter or selection.” *Title of Book as a Whole,* edited by

Editor’s Name(s), Edition and/or Volume Numbers if appropriate, Publisher, Publication Year, pp. ## -

##. *Title of website or database,* URL (only include if you read the material online).

Examples

Baldwin, James. “Stranger in the Village.” *The Norton Book of Personal Essays,* edited by Joseph Epstein,

Norton 1997, pp. 263 – 275.

Plath, Sylvia. “Lady Lazarus.” *The Norton Anthology of Literature*, edited by Nina Baym,

Wayne Franklin, Philip F. Gura, and Arnold Krupat, 7th ed, Vol. E, W.W. Norton & Co.,

2007, pp. 2701 – 2702.

Miller, J. Hillis. “Moments of Decision in *Bleak House*.” *The Cambridge Companion to Charles Dickens,*

edited by John O. Jordan, Cambridge University Press, 2009, pp. 49 – 63. *ProQuest Literature Online*, https://liteature-proquest-com.libproxy2.usc.edu/searchFulltext.do?id= R04700965&divLevel=0&trail ID =167DC9F4F9B&area=criticism&forward=critref\_ft&browse=true

**A movie**

Formula

*Title of Movie.* Directed by Director, Studio: Year of Release.

Example

*Taxi Driver*. Directed by Martin Scorsese, Columbia: 1976.

**An episode of a television show**

Formula

“Title of Episode.” *Title of Series,* season #, episode #, Studio, date. *Title of streaming service,* URL (only

include if you watched online).

Examples

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.” *Mad Men,* season 1, episode 1, AMC, 2007.

“Meadowlands.” *The Sopranos*, season 1, episode 4, HBO, 1999. *Amazon Prime Video:*

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B006IVTP1U/ref=atv\_dp\_season\_select\_atf

**Song on a Digital Musical Platform**

Formula

Songwriter last name, Songwriter first name [or band name]. “Name of song.” *Name of album*, Studio,

Release date. *Name of streaming site*, URL.

(over)

Example

Swift, Taylor. “Love Story.” *Fearles*s*,* Big Machine Records, 2008. *Spotify*, https://open.spotify.com/track/

1vrd6UOGamcKNGnSHJQlSt?si=QsxNrioGTdO0HxGAaknMtg

**Song on a CD**

Formula

Songwriter last name, Songwriter first name [or band name]. “Name of song.” *Name of album*. Studio:

Release date. Format.

Example

Swift, Taylor. “Love Story.” *Fearless*. Big Machine Records: 2008. CD.

**YouTube video**

Formula

Author last name, Author first name [if available]. “Title of video.” *Title of streaming site,* uploaded by

screen name, date uploaded, URL.

Robinson, Ken. *Do Schools Kill Creativity?* *YouTube*, uploaded by TED, 6 Jan. 2007, https://www.youtube.

com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY.

**A Tweet**

Formula

Username (Full name if available). “Tweet in its entirety.” *Twitter* Year Month Day Time, URL.

Example

@Emilferrisdraws (Emil Ferris). “Dear (suddenly) Homeschooling Parents, A great project: create a biography

of a famous person in comic form. The comics anthology 'Noisemakers' is a fantastically inspirational place to start. (Btw I did the homeschooling gig long ago and it can be tricky, so hats off to you all).” *Twitter* 2020 April 1 2:45pm, https://twitter.com/Emilferrisdraws/status/1245467235822571521?s=20.

* If you are citing something like a photograph, use a description in place of a title.