MLA 8th Edition

Reference Guide for

Creating source cards

The Modern Language Association changed the citation format in 2016. The eighth edition brings some changes –students now look for the nine core elements to cite a source correctly. \*\*Look for all nine elements when citing a source, but make note that not all nine will be found with every source. If you don’t find an element, move on to the next.

Below are some samples of different sources in the MLA 8th edition format. By the label, the number in parenthesis refers to element chart on the right.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Author.** | Last name, first name.  More than one (et al) | Ex – Twain, Mark.  Ex – Hubbard, Mary, et al. |
| **2. Title of source.** | Section or part of an entire source. \*\*Usually set off by quotes. | Ex – “Unplugging the Selfie Generation.” |
| **3. Container,**  **\*\*if no title of source, container is followed by a period instead of a comma** | Title of the entire source (book, magazine, website). Set off with *italics*if typed, underline if hand-written | Ex – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.*  Ex – *National Geographic,*  Ex – *Biography.com,* |
| **4. Other contributors,** | Editors, Narrators, Translators, etc.  Names – first last | Ex – edited by Steven G. Kellman,  Ex – directed by Robert Redford, |
| **5. Version,** | Magazines, newspapers, journal publications, multi-volume books | Ex – 4th ed.,  Ex – Vol. 4, |
| **6.Number,** | Ex – No. 3, |
| **7. Publisher,**  **\*omit if same as container** | Publisher or sponsor of website | Ex – Salem Press,  Ex – Gale Research, |
| **8. Publication date** | Year or full date | Ex – 2007,  Ex – 3 Mar. 2015, |
| **9. Location.** | Page number(s) for print  URL for website | Ex – p. 4.  Ex – pp. 54-67.  Ex – www.biography.com  Ex – *Proquest,* www.proquest.com |

**(Entire) Book**

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby.* Scribner, 1925.

Publisher (7)

Container (3)

Publication date (8)

Author’s name (1)

Title of source (2)

Publisher (7)

Container (3)

**(Section or part of a) Book**

Twain, Mark. “The Cave.” *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* Penguin Books, 1884, pp. 58-61.

Location (9)

Author’s name (1)

Publication date (8)

\*\*Note – if you are using the entire book as a source, do not include the page number(s) in the citation.

\*\*If you only use a section from a book, include the page numbers.

A single page (p. 4) Multiple pages (pp.34-43)

**Reference Book/Anthology (Section/part of a book)**

Author’s name (1)

Title of source (2)

Container (3)

Shuman, R. Baird. “Ernest Hemingway.” *Magill’s Survey of American Literature,* edited by Steven G. Kellman, 4th ed., Salem Press, 2007, pp. 1068-1078.

Location (9)

Other contributors (4)

Version (5)

Publication date (8)

Publisher (7)

**Magazine**

Container (3)

Author’s name (1)

Title of source (2)

McNeil, Liz. “Robert Sundhom: A Natural-Born Artist.” *People,* Vol. 87, No. 4, 23 Jan. 2017, p. 103.

Location (9)

Publication date (8)

Number (6)

Version (5)

**Website examples (database)**

Version (5)

Container (3)

Author’s name (1)

Title of source (2)

Barlow, Dudley. “Off with their Thumbs.” *The Education Digest,* Vol. 60, No. 5, 1995, p. 41, *ProQuest Discovery; Research Library*, search.proquest.com

Publication date (8)

Location (9)

Number (6)

\*\*Note – the location for this website example shows both a print location (p.41) as well as the name of the database (*ProQuest)* and URL. This is because the source (*The Education Digest)* is a magazine/scholarly journal that was printed as well as found online.

**Website examples (database)**

Container (3)

Author’s name (1)

Title of source (2)

Other contributors (4)

Bennett-Bealer, Nichole. “Twain, Mark.” *Student’s Encylopedia of Great American Writers: 1830 to 1900,* edited by Paul Crumbley and Patricia M. Gant,Vol. 2, Facts on File, Inc, 2010, *Bloom’s Literature*, www.fofweb.com

Publisher (7)

Publication date (8)

Version (5)

Location (9)

**Website example**

Container (3)

Title of source (2)

“Barak Obama.” *Biography.com,* A & E Television, 12 Jan. 2017, www.biography.com

Publisher (7)

Location (9)

Publication date (8)

**Website example**

Other contributors (4)

Container (3)

*The Official Website of Mark Twain,* designed by Dominic Lazma, Estate of Mark Twain, 2005, http://www.cmgww.com/historic/twain/index.php

Publisher (7)

Publication date (8)

Location (9)