MLA Style

This handout provides some basic examples of MLA style. For more examples and complete information, use the following sources from the Modern Language Association:


A copy of the latest edition is located in Reference at **R808.027 M111**. An excellent source of information about the changes in the latest edition of the handbook is the *MLA Style Center* at https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/.

**Books**
The standard information included in a book citation will include the core elements listed under the tab, Core Elements for Works Cited Entries in this LibGuide. Listed below are a few examples:

**Multiple Authors**

**Editor(s)**

**Three or More Authors**
Chapter in a Book
Sutton, Paul. "Femme Nikita: Violent Women or Amenable
Spectacle?" Film Studies: Women in Contemporary World
Cinema, edited by Alexandra Heidi Karriker, Peter Lang, 2002,
pp. 91-100.

Comic Book

Periodicals
Periodical sources include journals, magazines, and newspapers. The principle
elements that will be included in paper entries are: Author. Title of source (this is
the article title). Title of container (this is the name of the publication), volume and
issue numbers, publication date, page numbers.

Magazines:
Multiple Authors
Golliver, Ben, and Chris Mannix. “Oklahoma City Thunder.” Sports

No Author
"The Long Way Home." Newsweek, vol. 165, no. 8, 4 Sept. 2015,

Newspapers:

Scholarly Journals:
Maher, Lisa, et al. "Impact of a Reduction in Heroin Availability on Patterns of
Drug Use, Risk Behaviour and Incidence of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in
Injecting Drug Users in New South Wales, Australia." Drug and Alcohol

**Journals from Library Databases:**
The MLA Style Center provides guidance regarding the simplification of entries taken from online databases. It is recommended that the location of an online work should be indicated by a URL or a doi (Digital Object Identifier). When preparing the citation, consider how easy it will be for users to find the article that is cited. Since information that is found online is constantly changing, one could identify an EBSCO database by using *EBSCOHost* as Container 2; however, it is also correct to identify the specific database from the SWOSU Library’s collection. If a doi is given for the article, it is used in the entry.


**Web Publications**
Conducting research on the Web provides access to a wide variety of documents and recordings. The use of the Container system simplifies the process of finding the information needed to complete the citation.

*When the Earth Shakes.* Sam Noble Museum, U of Oklahoma, Norman, samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/permanent-exhibits/current-exhibits/.


For other citation examples and more detail about documentation in both the Works Cited and in-text citations, see the *MLA Handbook* or the LibGuide entitled “Citing Sources in MLA Style” that is located on the SWOSU Library’s website.

**In-Text Citations**

References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited. Identify the location of the borrowed information as specifically as possible.

A standard parenthetical reference provides the author’s name followed by the specific page numbers where the cited material can be found. The citation will be enclosed in parentheses placed as close as possible to the material documented.

**Example:** Companies can monitor employees’ every keystroke without legal penalty, but they may have to combat low morale as a result (Berkman 183).

If the author’s name is stated in the text, only the page number is necessary.

**Example:** Berkman asserts that employee morale may be a problem (183).

If no page number is available, it is preferable to include reference to the author in the text of the paper.

**Example:** Keith Lilley provides a thorough discussion of medieval rituals based upon the study he completed in 2009.