



# FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

## **MLA Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> Edition: General Rules & Citation Examples**

### **Elements of Citations:**

Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

### **Basic Rules & Description of Citation Elements:**

**Authors:** List up to two, in the order they are presented in the source. If more than two, only list the first one and add “et al” after his/her name. Last name goes first, but only for the first person listed. Corporate authors are sometimes acceptable, but not if the publisher is identical. Online usernames are acceptable as authors if you are citing a social media site. If listing someone in place of an author, as in the case of a film or television show, provide the name followed by the contribution (Lang, Jessica, performer).

**Titles:** There are two types. Full length works (books, periodicals, films, albums, databases) are italicized, and parts of larger works (articles, short stories, poems, songs) are formatted in quotation marks. Use headline style capitalization for all titles. Place a colon between a title and a subtitle. Titles within titles need extra formatting.

**Other Contributors:** This is where you would list other individuals whose contribution to the work is relevant to your research. Use phrases like “edited by,” “directed by,” “performance by,” “translated by,” etc. Besides listing the director for film and the editor for compiled works, anthologies, and reference books, use this category sparingly, and only when it is important to your research.

**Version:** This indicates that something has been updated or changed from the original. It might refer to the edition number for a book or director’s cut for a film.

**Number:** This could refer to the volume number of an encyclopedia set, the volume and issue number of a periodical, or the season and episode number of a television show.

**Publisher:** The company responsible for making an item available to the public. It could be a book publisher, a film distribution company, or a government entity. For websites, look to the copyright statement to find the publisher (not required if it is the same as the name of the site). The publisher is not required for periodicals.

**Publication Date:** Generally, if more than one is listed, pick the most relevant one. Dates are written as: 21 Nov. 2016. In some cases, it is acceptable to list a range of dates.

**Location:** For books, this is usually a page number or range of pages. For websites, the location is the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or, if there is no DOI, the URL (Uniform Resource Locator; web link). For a television series, it is the disc number in the set. For artwork, museum artifacts, lectures, and performances, list the name of the institution and city in which it resides.

## Citation Examples:

**Book** (citation information comes from title page and copyright page)

Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Broadway Books, 2005.

### Essay or Short Story in a Book

Bisson, Terry. "Bears Discover Fire." *Masterpieces: The Best Science Fiction of the Twentieth Century*, edited by Orson Scott Card, Ace Books, 2001, pp. 87-103.

For eBooks accessed in databases, add the name of the database (italicized) and the URL after the page numbers.

**Article in a Periodical** (citation information comes from first page of article and other pages in periodical)

Zeigler, Robert. "Fantasy's Timeless Humor in Clive Barker's *The Thief of Always*." *Notes on Contemporary Literature*, vol. 24, no. 5, May 1994, pp. 7-9.

If you found it in a periodicals database, simply add the database information at the end of the citation:

Keetley, Dawn. "Stillborn: The Entropic Gothic of *American Horror Story*." *Gothic Studies*, vol. 15, no. 2, Nov. 2013, pp. 89-107. *Academic Search Complete*, <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=93303201&site=ehost-live>.

**CD** (citation information comes from disc and packaging)

Strauss, Johann. "The Blue Danube." *Festival: A Treasury of Classical Hits*, conducted by Lee Shaenen, CBS, 1974.

**DVD** (citation information comes from opening/closing credits and packaging)

*Sunset Boulevard*. 1950. Directed by Billy Wilder, performance by Gloria Swanson, special collector's edition, Paramount, 2002.

### Website

D'Angelo, Mike. "With *Dr. Strangelove*, Kubrick Shot a Brilliant Satire like a Straight Thriller." *A.V. Club*, 25 Jun. 2016, <http://www.avclub.com/r/238683tsd>.

### Social Media

@fivesoundsrecords. "FTC Awards 2 May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ Five Towns College." *Twitter*, 28 Nov. 2016, 9:02 a.m., <https://twitter.com/5SoundsRecords/status/803282880835133440>.

### YouTube

"How to Read Your Textbooks More Efficiently." *YouTube*, uploaded by Thomas Frank, 20 Nov. 2014, [https://youtu.be/tgVjmFSx7rg?list=PL2plUMBIeP\\_BDD-Yghhp5xI-5T4cq1\\_k](https://youtu.be/tgVjmFSx7rg?list=PL2plUMBIeP_BDD-Yghhp5xI-5T4cq1_k).

## Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations:

When you list an item on your Works Cited page, it is because you used information from it somewhere in your paper. You will need to provide a short reference to the source for every time you quote or paraphrase. This consists of the first element in the citation (usually the author's last name) and where exactly the information came from (usually a page number). If you have more than one source by the same author, include a shortened title to differentiate. If there is no author, you generally use the title in its place. If there is no page number, you may substitute "para." for paragraph, "sec." for section, or "ch." for chapter, but only if the numbers exist in the original source. Do not invent them yourself. Never list screen numbers for websites. For audio or video sources, provide the time using the 01:21:15 (hours, minutes, seconds) format. Provide a range if appropriate.

Refer to the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* for all other questions about citations.