



<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/>

MLA Handbook, 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Eureka Reference LB 2369 .G53 2016

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

Core Elements

Each entry in the list of works cited is composed of facts common to most works—the MLA core elements. They are assembled in the order shown to the left.

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. A short story (source) may be in an anthology (container 1) that is hosted in an online database (container 2). The title is always enclosed in quotes; the container (or self-contained source) is always in italics.

Sample Full Citations from MLA Style Central

A Source in a Single Container: An Essay in a Book Collection

Copeland, Edward. "Money." *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48.

A Source in a Single Container: A Video on a Web Site

"Curiosity Rover Report (August 2015): Three Years on Mars!" *NASA's Journey to Mars: Videos*, edited by Sarah Loff, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 30 July 2015, www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/videos/index.html.

A Source in Two Containers: A Journal Article Retrieved from a Database

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color, and Time: Jacob Lawrence's The Migration Series." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. EBSCOHost, ezproxy.redwoods.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=24093790&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Format and Layout of the Paper

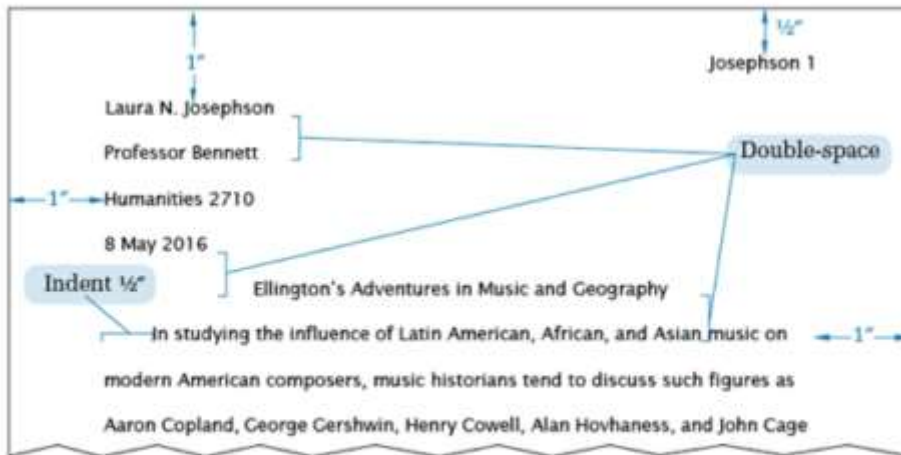


Fig. 1. The top of the first page of a research paper.

Set double spacing for the entire document, usually a menu option under "Page Layout" or similar.

Use a readable font of reasonable size with an identifiable italic form. Most sources recommend Times New Roman 12 point, but a sans serif fonts such as Arial or Calibri is also acceptable.

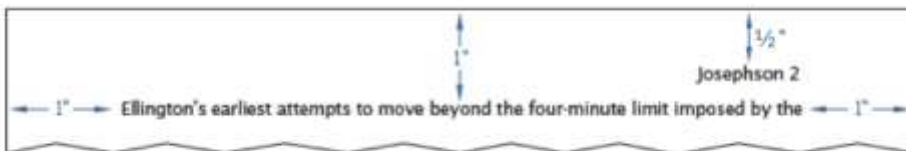


Fig. 2. The running head of a research paper.

Your last name followed by the page number should be inserted as a header on every page.

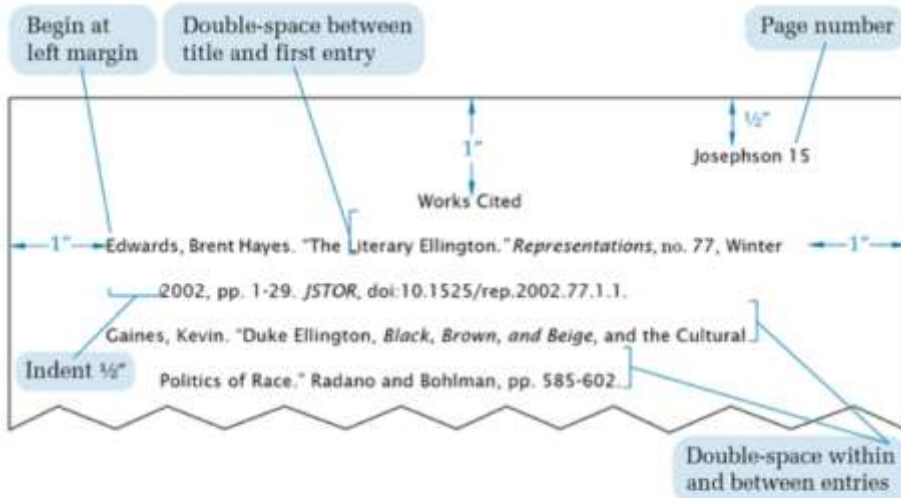


Fig. 3. The top of the first page of a works-cited list.

Look for the "hanging indent" formatting command in your word processing software, rather than trying to format the indent manually using tabs or spaces. The "hanging indent" feature allows your text to maintain the formatting if you need to make changes.

Sample In-Text Citations Paired with the full citation as it appears in the Works Cited

Author's Name Used in Text

According to Katherine Sobba Green, the courtship novel “detailed a young woman’s entrance into society, the problems arising from that situation, her courtship, and ... her choice” (2).

Full Citation

Green, Katherine Sobba. *The Courtship Novel 1740-1820: A Feminized Genre*. UP of Kentucky, 1991.

Author's Name Not Used in Text

[M]arriage ... is precipitated by, among other things, vanity, financial considerations, boredom, the desire to “disoblige” one’s family (Austen, *Mansfield Park* 5) or simply to escape from it.

Full Citation

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. Edited by Kathryn Sutherland, Penguin Books, 2014.

An Indirect Quote

Austen’s family belonged to a class that the historian David Spring has called the “pseudo-gentry” (qtd. in Copeland 132): “a group of upper professional families living in the country—clergymen or barristers, for example, or officers in the army and navy” (Copeland 132).

Full Citation

Copeland, Edward. “Money.” *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48.

Two Authors

As Knezevich and Looser note, “Jane Austen’s beloved naval brother, Charles Austen (1779–1852), had a significant impact on her literary career. We find probable traces of him in the male characters appearing in *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Persuasion* (1818) ... ” (554).

Full Citation

Knezevich, Ruth and Devoney Looser. “Jane Austen's Afterlife, West Indian Madams, and the Literary Porter Family: Two New Letters from Charles Austen.” *Modern Philology*, vol. 112, no. 3, Feb. 2015, pp. 554-568. EBSCOhost, ezproxy.redwoods.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=100701658&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Three or More Authors

“[O]ur prediction was supported for the Fanny-Maria comparison, as men preferred Fanny for the long-term relationship, and preferred Maria for the short term relationship ...” (Kruger et. al. 207).

Full Citation

Kruger, Daniel J., et al. “Variation in Women's Mating Strategies Depicted in the Works and Words of Jane Austen.” *Journal of Social, Evolutionary & Cultural Psychology*, vol. 7, no. 3, Sept. 2013, pp. 197-210. EBSCOhost, ezproxy.redwoods.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=90476391&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

- Always include the link for sources that are only available on the web. Copy the link from the browser’s location bar, but remove the “http” prefix, colon, and backslashes.
- Include the link for database sources only if your instructor or editor requires it. Do not use the link in the browser’s location bar, but look for a DOI or Permalink in the database program.
- Links should not be underlined, italicized, or otherwise highlighted.

MLA Practice Template

1	Author.
2	Title of source.
CONTAINER 1	
3	Title of container,
4	Other contributors,
5	Version,
6	Number,
7	Publisher,
8	Publication date,
9	Location.
CONTAINER 2	
3	Title of container,
4	Other contributors,
5	Version,
6	Number,
7	Publisher,
8	Publication date,
9	Location.

From *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.), published by the Modern Language Association (style.mla.org).

Use this template to record the core elements of your source. Follow the punctuation provided, using commas or periods after each element as shown. Omit any elements you can't find.