

The 2016 MLA Guidelines

Most of this slide show, the educational part anyway, comes from the *MLA Handbook, Eighth Edition*.

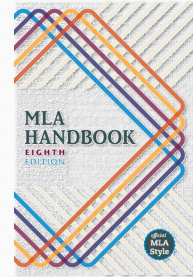
(Professor Freeman accepts full responsibility for the rest of it.)



What is MLA?

MLA (Modern Language Association) Style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.

In addition to the handbook, MLA also offers **The MLA Style Center**, a website that provides additional instruction and resources for writing and formatting academic papers. <https://style.mla.org/>



Purdue OWL Staff
Brought to you in cooperation with the Purdue Online Writing Lab

Why do you need to learn MLA for this class?

- If you do not know much about MLA rules for setting up a paper, how to use in-text citations, or how to format Works Cited entries, you should buy the Eng 2 Recommended MLA Guide posted on the class website, Barbara Fister's *Quick Reference: Working With Sources: Using MLA, Eighth Edition Style*.
- Using MLA correctly is a requirement for passing Eng 2. In the Class Guidelines, under Student Learning Outcomes, it states:


"5. Find, analyze, interpret, and evaluate primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays and class presentations using appropriate documentation format without plagiarism."



Photo courtesy of <https://morguefile.com/>

If you don't know the basics of MLA going into Eng 2, my advice is to stock up your liquor cabinet.

In other words . . .



**“Fasten your seat belts.
It’s going to be a bumpy
night.”**

This quote, and not the dead driver, comes from the classic movie, *All About Eve*.

Photo courtesy of <https://morguefile.com/>

The MLA’s “Intuitive” Approach

MLA guidelines used to be based on the source’s publication format, with different rules for citing a book than a newspaper article or a website. The problem: The rules couldn’t keep up with new types of sources being created, such as digital media.

The MLA now recommends a universal set of guidelines that writers can apply to any source and gives writers in all fields—from the sciences to the humanities—the tools to intuitively document sources.

-- from the MLA web site

The MLA’s “Intuitive” Approach

With this new approach, the Modern Language Association has added terms like “containers” and “locations” for items that include books, periodicals, web sites, publishers, and page numbers.

The MLA’s “Intuitive” Approach

In the new model, the work’s publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, “How do I cite a book or DVD or Web page?” the writer creates a Works Cited entry by consulting the MLA’s list of core elements—facts common to most works—which are assembled in a specific order.

-- from the MLA web site



List of "Core MLA Elements." Not all of the following elements are required. Ignore anything that does not apply to your source. (Please note the punctuation used after each category.)

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

Think of a container as where a source is published. For example, an Aug. 23, 2016 *Los Angeles Times* article discussed a judge's decision to make public a controversial 2014 video that showed a police officer assaulting a man during an arrest.

The article was published in the printed newspaper,

in the paper's digital or e- edition,

Video shows LAPD officer kicking punching in controversial South
and on the paper's website with the video posted with the story.
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-video-20160822-snap-story.html>

Each of these is a container where the story appeared.

How would we cite each of these using the new MLA formats?

The article was published in the printed newspaper,

in the paper's digital or e- edition,

Video shows LAPD officer kicking punching in controversial South
and on the paper's website with the video posted with the story.
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-video-20160822-snap-story.html>

**Newspaper article in printed
Los Angeles Times:**

1 Author,	Mather, Kate.
2 Title of source,	"Video Captures Police Assault."
Container	
3 Title of container,	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> ,
4 Other contributors,	
5 Version,	
6 Number,	
7 Publisher,	
8 Publication date,	23 Aug. 2016,
9 Location,	p. 1+




Work Cited Entry

Mather, Kate. "Video Captures Police Assault." *Los Angeles Times*, 23 Aug. 2016, p.1+.

**Newspaper article in digital e-edition
of *Los Angeles Times*:**

1 Author,	Mather, Kate.
2 Title of source,	"Video Captures Police Assault."
Container	
3 Title of container,	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> ,
4 Other contributors,	
5 Version,	e-edition,
6 Number,	
7 Publisher,	
8 Publication date,	23 Aug. 2016,
9 Location,	http://eedition2.latimes.com/Olive/ODE/LATimes2/#nt=primarynavbar



Work Cited Entry

Mather, Kate. "Video Captures Police Assault." *Los Angeles Times*, e-edition, 23 Aug. 2016, eedition2.latimes.com/Olive/ODE/LATimes2/#nt=primarynavbar.

Newspaper article on <i>Los Angeles Times</i> website:	
1 Author,	Mather, Kate.
2 Title of source,	"Video Captures Police Assault."
3 Title of container,	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> ,
4 Other contributors,	
5 Version,	
6 Number,	
7 Publisher,	
8 Publication date,	23 Aug. 2016,
9 Location.	http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-video-20160822-snap-story.html

Video shows LAPD officer kicking punching in controversial South



Work Cited Entry

Mather, Kate. "Video Captures Police Assault." *Los Angeles Times*, 23 Aug. 2016, www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-video-20160822-snap-story.html.

About URLs or Internet addresses

- MLA says when using a URL, be sure to include the complete address for the site **except** for the <https://>.
- You also may see a permalink, which Purdue OWL describes as a shorter, more stable URL. OWL recommends looking for a "share" or "cite this" button to see if an online newspaper or magazine article has a permalink, and if so, use that instead of a URL.

About URLs or Internet addresses

- Since some URLs can change, MLA says if you see a DOI, a digital object identifier, use that instead of the URL since a DOI remains even if a URL changes. Example of a DOI:

Work Cited

Chan, Evans. "Postmodern and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

Now let's try this template with an example you will use in your first essay:

1 Author,	Bram Stoker
2 Title of source,	<i>The Essential Dracula: The Definitive Annotated Edition</i>
Container 1	
3 Title of container,	
4 Other contributors,	Leonard Wolf, editor
5 Version,	
6 Number,	
7 Publisher,	Plume
8 Publication date,	1993
9 Location,	

Work Cited Entry

Stoker, Bram. *The Essential Dracula: The Definitive Annotated Edition*. Edited by Leonard Wolf, Plume, 1993.

Another example for your essay: A selection from an anthology.

1 Author,	Christopher Bentley
2 Title of source,	"The Monster in the Bedroom: Sexual Symbolism in Bram Stoker's <i>Dracula</i> ."
Container 1	
3 Title of container,	<i>Dracula: The Vampire and the Critics</i>
4 Other contributors,	Margaret L. Carter, editor
5 Version,	
6 Number,	
7 Publisher,	UMI Research Press
8 Publication date,	1988
9 Location,	pp. 25-34

Work Cited Entry

Bentley, Christopher. "The Monster in the Bedroom: Sexual Symbolism in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*." *Dracula: The Vampire and the Critics*, edited by Margaret L. Carter, UMI Research Press, 1988, pp. 25-34.

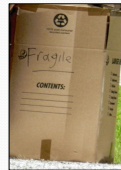
This seems simple enough until you find ...

Containers within containers (oh, nooo!)

A container can be nested within a larger container:

- An essay published in the book, *The Abortion Controversy*, may be found in the BC library's online database called *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*.
- A TV series such as *Star Trek* may be watched on *Netflix*.
- An excerpt from the book, *Behavioural Economics Saved My Dog: Life Advice for the Imperfect Human*, may be read on *Google Books*.

What's with all these containers? There are sooo many kinds.



Boxes,



bins,



and those oil barrels you use to stash bodies.

Photos courtesy of <https://monquille.com/>

Within the handbook, the MLA deals with supplementary information by charting out additional "containers," providing the following template.

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

Supplementary information can be added to the end of the first container. Remember--not all of the elements are required. Ignore anything that does not apply to your work.

	<i>Container 2</i>
3	<i>Title of container,</i>
4	Other contributors,
5	Version,
6	Number,
7	Publisher,
8	Publication date,
9	Location.

You could go on . . .

	Container 3
3	Title of container,
4	Other contributors,
5	Version,
6	Number,
7	Publisher,
8	Publication date,
9	Location.



Wake up!

Maybe it is less confusing to think of containers within containers as delightful Russian nesting dolls, you know the ones that you see at boutiques selling all sorts of weird items your grandmother likes.

Nesting dolls start out with a large doll that has a smaller doll nesting inside of it, and that doll has a smaller doll inside of it, and that tiny doll has another even smaller doll inside of it.

For example . . .



Oops. Wrong doll.

Photo courtesy of <https://morphefile.com/>



Photo courtesy of <https://morquefile.com/>

Two of these guys look smarter than the idiot doing the handstand, but they still are the wrong type of dolls.



Photo courtesy of <https://morquefile.com/>

These biker babe dolls are resting, not nesting.



Photo courtesy of <https://morquefile.com/>

Finally!

Container 1

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 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.

So how do I cite a container found within a larger container?

Start with the list of "Core Elements." Not all of the following elements are required. Ignore anything that does not apply to your source. You then add the next container's info after that.

Container 1	
1	Author.
2	Title of source.
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.

Let's try this out with an example you often will use in this class, a scholarly or peer-reviewed article printed in a journal (*container 1*).

You will find these through the BC library's online databases (*container 2*).

Journal article example from <i>The MLA Handbook</i> :		
1	Author.	Goldman, Anne.
2	Title of source.	"Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante."
Container 1		
3	Title of container.	<i>The Georgia Review,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	vol. 64, no. 1,
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	2010,
9	Location.	pp. 69-88.

Container 2		
1	Author.	
2	Title of source.	
Container 2		
3	Title of container.	<i>JSTOR,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	
9	Location.	www.jstor.org/stable/41403188.

Work Cited Entry

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

JSTOR, www.jstor.org/ stable/41403188.

Where can I go for help with MLA?
Check the Eng 2 website for these links:

Barbara Fister's MLA Guide: This is what we will use for Eng 2.

[April 2016 MLA Changes \(Quick Guide\)](#)

[Purdue OWL 2016 MLA Guide website](#)

[Purdue OWL 2016 MLA Guide PDF \(70 pages\)](#)

[Purdue OWL 2016 MLA Guide \(PowerPoint\)](#)

[Plagiarism and MLA \(revised Fall 2017\)](#)