

What's new in MLA style?

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has updated its guidelines for student writers in the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* (2016). As a service to users of Bedford/St. Martin's textbooks, we offer this overview of the major changes in MLA style.

Notable changes

- MLA uses the organizing principle of “container.” A container might be an anthology, a periodical, a Web site, a television program, a database, an online archive, etc. Basically, containers are enclosed by periods, with commas used for the elements within the containers. See the visual and a few examples on the next page.
- Use *et al.* for **three** or more authors in works cited entries and in in-text citations.
- Use *p.* and *pp.* for all page numbers in works cited entries.
- Spell out *editor*, *translator*, *edited by*, etc. Continue to abbreviate *vol.* for “volume” and *ed.* for “edition” in works cited entries.
- Indent for long quotations in text is now ½ inch (not 1 inch).
- If the publisher name is the same as the Web site title, omit the publisher name.

Works cited: books

- Do not give the medium in citations.
- Do not use the place of publication for books.
- Use full publisher names, except for terms such as *Inc.* and *Company*. Retain terms such as *Books* and *Publisher*. Continue to use *U* and *P* for university presses. Examples: Alfred A. Knopf, Penguin Books, W. W. Norton, Florida UP, U of Michigan P.

Works cited: periodicals

- For journals, use the season or month in addition to volume and issue numbers: vol. 22, no. 4, June 2016.
- Use *The* for periodicals that include the article in their titles: *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*.

Works cited: Web sources

- Use a URL for all Web sources (omit <http://>)
- DOIs and permalinks, when available, are preferable to URLs.
- Use the date of access for Web sources that don't have a publication date: Accessed 3 Mar. 2016.

ARTICLE IN A JOURNAL

Matchie, Thomas. "Law versus Love in *The Round House*." *Midwest Quarterly*, vol. 56, no. 4, Summer 2015, pp. 353-64.

Bryson, Devin. "The Rise of a New Senegalese Cultural Philosophy?" *African Studies Quarterly*, vol. 14, no. 3, Mar. 2014, pp. 33-56, asq.africa.ufl.edu/files/Volume-14-Issue-3-Bryson.pdf.

ARTICLE FROM A DATABASE

Sharp, Kathleen. "The Rescue Mission." *Smithsonian*, Nov. 2015, pp. 40-49. *OmniFile Full Text Select*, web.b.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.bpl.org/.

SHORT WORK FROM A WEB SITE

Enzinna, Wes. "Syria's Unknown Revolution." *Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*, 24 Nov. 2015, pulitzercenter.org/projects/middle-east-syria-enzinna-war-rojava.