MLA Handbook

EIGHTH EDITION

The Modern Language Association of America
New York 2016

Contents

Foreword by Rosemary G. Feal vii

Preface by Kathleen Fitzpatrick ix

Part 1
Principles of MLA Style

Introduction 3

Why Document Sources? 5

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty 6

Think: Evaluating Your Sources 10

Select: Gathering Information about Your Sources 13

Organize: Creating Your Documentation 19

The List of Works Cited 20

The Core Elements 20

Author 21

Title of Source 25

Title of Container 30

Other Contributors 37

Version 38

Number 39

Publisher 40

Publication Date 42

Location 46

Optional Elements 50

In-Text Citations 54

Part 2
Details of MLA Style

Introduction 61

1. The Mechanics of Scholarly Prose 61

1.1 Names of Persons 61

1.1.1 First and Subsequent Uses of Names 61

1.1.2 Titles of Authors 62

1.1.3 Names of Authors and Fictional Characters 62

1.1.4 Names in Languages Other Than English 63

1.2 Titles of Sources 67

1.2.1 Capitalization and Punctuation 67

1.2.2 Italics and Quotation Marks 68

1.2.3 Shortened Titles 70

1.2.4 Titles within Titles 71

1.2.5 Titles of Sources in Languages Other Than English 72

1.3 Quotations 75

1.3.1 Use and Accuracy of Quotations 75

1.3.2 Prose 75

1.3.3 Poetry 77

1.3.4 Drama 80

1.3.5 Ellipsis 80

1.3.6 Other Alterations of Quotations 86

1.3.7 Punctuation with Quotations 87

1.3.8 Translations of Quotations 90

1.4 Numbers 92

1.4.1 Use of Numerals or Words 92

1.4.2 Commas in Numbers 92

1.4.3 Inclusive Numbers 93

1.4.4 Roman Numerals 93

1.5 Dates and Times 94

1.6 Abbreviations 95
1.6.1 Months 95
1.6.2 Common Academic Abbreviations 96
1.6.3 Publishers' Names 97
1.6.4 Titles of Works 97
2. Works Cited 102
2.1 Names of Authors 102
2.1.1 Variant Forms 102
2.1.2 Titles and Suffixes 103
2.1.3 Corporate Authors 104
2.2 Titles 105
2.2.1 Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword 106
2.2.2 Translations of Titles 106
2.3 Versions 107
2.4 Publisher 107
2.5 Locational Elements 110
2.5.1 Plus Sign with Page Number 110
2.5.2 URLs and DOIs 110
2.6 Punctuation in the Works-Cited List 110
2.6.1 Square Brackets 111
2.6.2 Forward Slash 111
2.7 Formatting and Ordering the Works-Cited List 111
2.7.1 Letter-by-Letter Alphabetization 112
2.7.2 Multiple Works by One Author 113
2.7.3 Multiple Works by Coauthors 114
2.7.4 Alphabetizing by Title 115
2.7.5 Cross-References 115
3. In-Text Citations 116
3.1 Author 116
3.1.1 Coauthors 116
3.1.2 Corporate Author 117
3.2 Title 117

3.2.1 Abbreviating Titles of Sources 117
3.2.2 Descriptive Terms in Place of Titles 118
3.3 Numbers in In-Text Citations 119
3.3.1 Style of Numerals 119
3.3.2 Numbers in Works Available in Multiple Editions 120
3.3.3 Other Citations Not Involving Page Numbers 123
3.4 Indirect Sources 124
3.5 Repeated Use of Sources 124
3.6 Punctuation in the In-Text Citation 126
4. Citations in Forms Other Than Print 127
Practice Template 129
Index 131