# MLA 9th Edition

## Reference Guide for Creating source cards

In April 2021, the Modern Language Association updated their citation format. The ninth edition brings few changes –students will continue look for the nine core elements to cite a source correctly. **Look for all nine elements when citing a source, but make note that not all nine will be found with every source. If you don't find an element, move on to the next.

Below are some samples of different sources in the MLA 9th edition format. By the label, the number in parenthesis refers to element chart on the right. ➡

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Author.** | Last name, first name.<br>More than one (et al) | Ex – Twain, Mark.<br>Ex – Hubbard, Mary, et al. |
| **2. Title of source.** | Section or part of an entire source. **Usually set off by quotes. | Ex – "Unplugging the Selfie Generation." |
| **3. Container,**<br>****if no title of source, container is followed by a period instead of a comma** | Title of the entire source (book, magazine, website). Set off with *italics* if typed, <u>underline</u> if hand-written | Ex – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.*<br>Ex – *National Geographic,*<br>Ex – *Biography.com,* |
| **4. Contributors,** | Editors, Narrators, Translators, etc.<br>Names – first last | Ex – edited by Steven G. Kellman,<br>Ex – directed by Robert Redford, |
| **5. Version,** | Magazines, newspapers, journal publications, multi-volume books | Ex – 4th ed.,<br>Ex – Vol. 4, |
| **6.Number,** | | Ex – No. 3, |
| **7. Publisher,**<br>***omit if same as container** | Publisher or sponsor of website | Ex – Salem Press,<br>Ex – Gale Research, |
| **8. Publication date** | Year or full date | Ex – 2007,<br>Ex – 3 Mar. 2015, |
| **9. Location.** | Page number(s) for print<br>URL for website | Ex – p. 4.<br>Ex – pp. 54-67.<br>Ex – www.biography.com<br>Ex – *Proquest,* www.proquest.com |

**(Entire) Book**

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby.* Scribner, 1925.

Author's name (1) Container (3) Publisher (7) Publication date (8)

**(Section or part of a) Book**

Twain, Mark. "The Cave." *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* Penguin Books, 1884, pp. 58-61.

Author's name (1) Title of source (2) Container (3) Publisher (7) Location (9) Publication date (8)

**Note – if you are using the entire book as a source, do not include the page number(s) in the citation.
**If you only use a section from a book, include the page numbers.
A single page (p. 4) Multiple pages (pp.34-43)

**Reference Book/Anthology (Section/part of a book)**

Shuman, R. Baird. "Ernest Hemingway." *Magill's Survey of American Literature,* edited by Steven G. Kellman, 4th ed., Salem Press, 2017, pp. 1068-1078.

Author's name (1) Title of source (2) Container (3) Publisher (7) Contributors (4) Version (5) Publication date (8) Location (9)

**Magazine**

McNeil, Liz. "Robert Sundhom: A Natural-Born Artist." *People,* Vol. 87, No. 4, 23 Jan. 2021, p. 103.

Author's name (1) Title of source (2) Container (3) Version (5) Number (6) Location (9) Publication date (8)

**Website examples (database)**

Author's name (1) Title of source (2) Container (3) Version (5)

Barlow, Dudley. "Off with their Thumbs." *The Education Digest,* Vol. 60, No. 5, 2010, p. 41, *ProQuest Discovery; Research Library*, search.proquest.com

Number (6) Publication date (8) Second Container (3) Location (9)

**Note – the location for this website example shows both a print location (p.41) as well as the name of the database (*ProQuest)* and URL. This is because the source (*The Education Digest)* is a magazine/scholarly journal that was printed as well as found online.

**Website examples (database)**

Author's name (1) Title of source (2) Container (3) Contributors (4)

Bennett-Bealer, Nichole. "Twain, Mark." *Student's Encyclopedia of Great American Writers: 1830 to 1900,* edited by Paul Crumbley and Patricia M. Gant, Vol. 2, Facts on File, Inc, 2020, *Bloom's Literature*, www.fofweb.com

Version (5) Publisher (7) Publication date (8) Second Container (3) Location (9)

**Website example**

Title of source (2) Container (3)

"Barak Obama." *Biography.com,* A & E Television, 12 Jan. 2021, www.biography.com

Publisher (7) Publication date (8) Location (9)

**Website example**

Container (3) Contributors (4)

*The Official Website of Mark Twain,* designed by Dominic Lazma, Estate of Mark Twain, 2020, http://www.cmgww.com/historic/twain/index.php

Publisher (7) Publication date (8) Location (9)

**Streaming service example (work in two containers)**

Title of source (2) Container (3) Number (6) Publisher (7)

"I Don't Want to Be Free." *Killing Eve,* season 1, episode 7, BBC America,

2018. *Hulu*, www.hulu.com

Publication date (8) Second Container (3) Location (9)

**Twitter example**

Title of source (2)

Author (1) Fogarty, Mignon [@GrammarGirl]. "Every once in a while, that Gmail notice asking if you meant to reply to a 5-day-old message is quite helpful." *Twitter*, 13 Feb. 2019, twitter.com/GrammarGirl/status/1095734401550303232

Container (3)

Publication date (8) Location (9)

***Other examples can be found at style.mla.org.

Click on **Citing Sources** at the top and select

**Works Cited: A Quick Guide**

**Use the following order when your source is a work in two (2) containers.

(Ex: TV series on YouTube, an article on a database)