MLA STYLE QUICK GUIDE:
CITING WEB RESOURCES

This guide is based on the *MLA Handbook* 8th edition. When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown. Citations must be double-spaced with a “hanging indent” (all lines of the citation except the first are indented over 0.5 inches).

General Format and Punctuation for Citing Web Pages:

***NOTE: These steps only apply to standard Web pages. See examples provided below for other Web sources, such as journal articles on the Web.***

1. Author Last name, First name Middle name [followed by a period]:
   - For multiple authors, only reverse the first author name: Bay, Joe M., Sara Rose Tan, and Rob Nen.
   - For 4 or more authors, name only the first author followed by et al.: Chen, Mei L., et al.
   - List names in the order they appear on the website. Include middle names and initials if given.
   - Do not include professional titles, such as Dr. or PhD.
   - If no author name is provided, skip the author and begin with the title.

2. Title of Work/Article or Web Page [end with a period and put in quotes]:
   - Capitalize all important words (and the first word) in both titles and subtitles.
   - Always include the subtitle after a colon. Example: “Coronary Artery Disease: Prevention.”

3. Title of Overall Website [in italics and followed by a period]:
   - Type it as it appears on the Website. Example: *University of Maryland Medical Center.*
   - Spell out the title – do not format it as a URL.

4. Publisher or sponsor of the Website [followed by a comma]:
   - Leave blank if the same as the title of the overall website or contributor.
   - Check the copyright statement at bottom of page, or the “About” page for the publisher name.

5. Date of publication, copyright date, or last update [followed by a period]:
   - Include Day Month Year, as available. Example: 10 Jan. 2016.
   - Look at the very top and very bottom of the Web page for date information.

6. URL, if required [followed by a period]:
   - Only include the URL if the source is hard to find with a search engine.
   - Omit http:// from the overall URL.
   - URL should lead directly to the exact page/source you are citing.

7. Date you found/viewed the article online [followed by a period]:
   - Use the word “Accessed” before the date.
   - Abbreviate all months except May, June, July. Format as Day Month Year: 14 July 2015, 2 Apr. 2015.
Examples:

Page or Article on a Website (most Web resources will use this format):

- In-text citation example: “Quoting from this web page” (Johnson).

Scholarly Journal Article on the Web:

- In-text citation example: Paraphrasing pages 2-3 of this article (Amrein-Beardsley 2-3).

Photograph from an Online Archive with No Author

- In text citation example: description of this picture (Cutting and Fitting).

Social Media Post:

@NASA. "We’re beginning test flights to improve the fuel efficiency of supersonic planes & minimize disruptive sonic boom." Twitter, 7 Mar. 2017, 10:59 a.m., twitter.com/NASA/status/839188780963753988.
- In text citation example: “improve the fuel efficiency of supersonic planes” (@NASA).
NOTE – When citing a social media post, do not capitalize all-important words in the post”

An Entire Website with No Author:

*Note: You almost never want to cite an entire website. Instead, cite a specific page that has significant content for your research.

- In text citation example: The West Valley College site explains “You can apply for Summer and Fall 2017 starting Friday, March 10, 2017. We are upgrading to a new system and apologize for the delay.”

More MLA Style Resources:

MLA Handbook, 8th ed. (available at any library)
Purdue Online Writing Laboratory MLA Guide: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/
NoodleTools 0-my.noodletools.com.library.wvm.edu/logon/signin