MLA Citation Style

1. Introduction

1.1 Start

MLA Citation Style!

1.2 Welcome

Welcome to the *MLA Citation Style* tutorial!

You can listen to or view the contents of this tutorial on the left menu.

To navigate forward click the NEXT button located in the bottom right hand corner of this screen.

1.3 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this tutorial you will be able to:

- describe the importance of citing sources
- recognize that MLA Style is commonly used in the humanities disciplines such as English
- identify the core elements of a citation in *MLA Style*
- create citations using *MLA Style*
- understand the importance of & create in-text citations

2. Citing Sources

2.1 Why Cite?

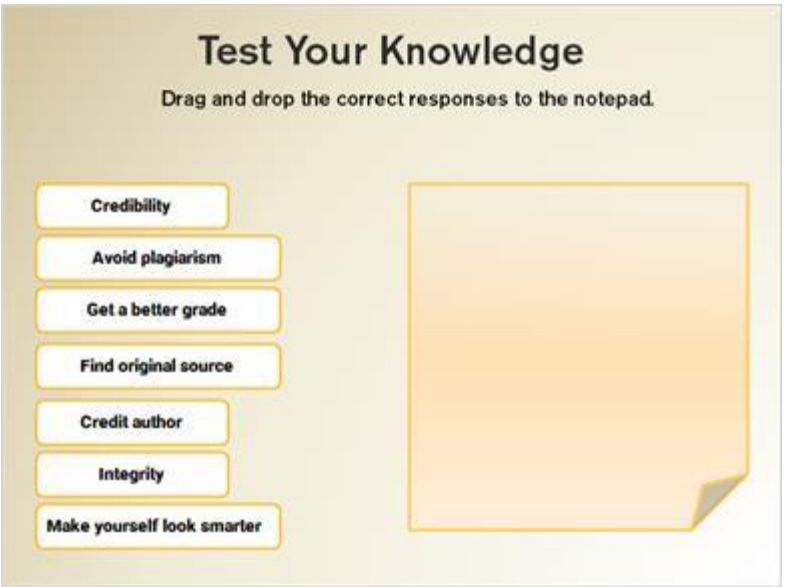
Citing sources is an important part of research because citations:

- credit the author of the original source
- establish your credibility as a scholar benefiting both you & the cited author
- show you researched your topic & backed up your arguments with credible supporting documents
- allow others to easily find the original source
- demonstrate your integrity as a responsible researcher
- help you avoid being accused of plagiarism.

2.2 Why Cite Activity

Why is citation important?

Drag and drop the correct responses to the notepad. When finished, click submit.



Drag Item	Correct Answer
Avoid plagiarism	X
Credibility	X
Integrity	X
Find original source	X
Credit author	X
Get a better grade	
Make yourself look smarter	

Drag and drop properties
Snap dropped items to drop target (Tile)
Delay item drop states until interaction is submitted

2.3 When to Cite

Always cite your sources when you:

Use direct quotes of more than one word
Paraphrase someone's ideas by putting the idea or words into your own words
Summarize someone else's ideas or words
Use statistical information or single facts that may be considered common knowledge but is not familiar. When in doubt, cite it!"

3. Different Citation Styles

3.1 Which Citation Style?

The citation style you use often depends on several things:

- the style most-used in the discipline for which you are writing
- the style recommended or adopted by your instructor, department, school or college

Always check with your instructor about the specific style allowed or required for assignments such as research papers, presentations and posters.

3.2 MLA Style

Different citation styles are used by different disciplines. APA and MLA are the major styles covering the social sciences and humanities.

The humanities prefer MLA Style. This includes the following subject areas:

- English
- Literature
- Art
- Philosophy
- Religion

3.3 WWWWH

As you gather information, ask yourself these questions:

Who is the author of the source?

What is the title of the source?

Where did you find the source?

When was the source published?

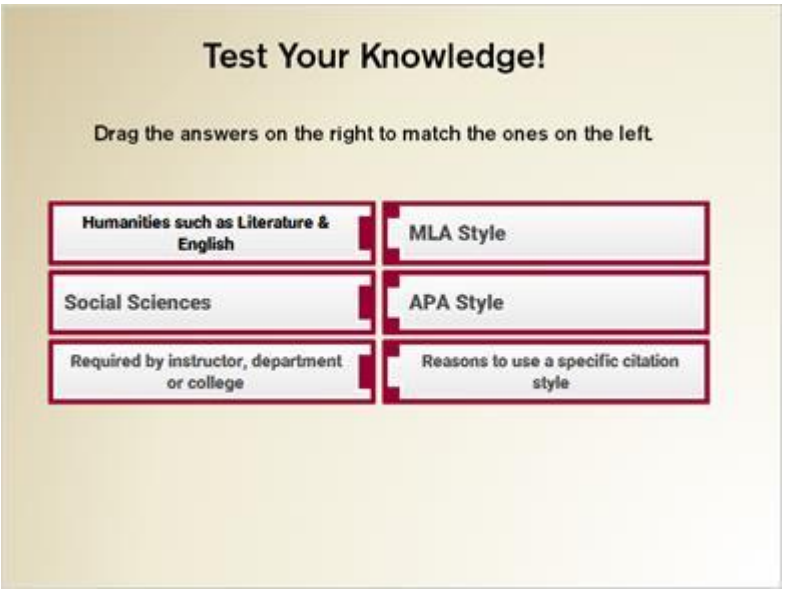
How was the source published?

These factors: author, title, publisher, location and publication date are important core elements of a good citation so make sure you have this basic data for each source.

3.4 Citation Styles Activity

Drag the answers on the right to match the ones on the left.

Click submit when you have matched the answers.



Correct	Choice
Humanities such as Literature & English	MLA Style
Social Sciences	APA Style
Required by instructor, department or college	Reasons to use a specific citation style

4. Components of MLA

4.1 Understanding MLA

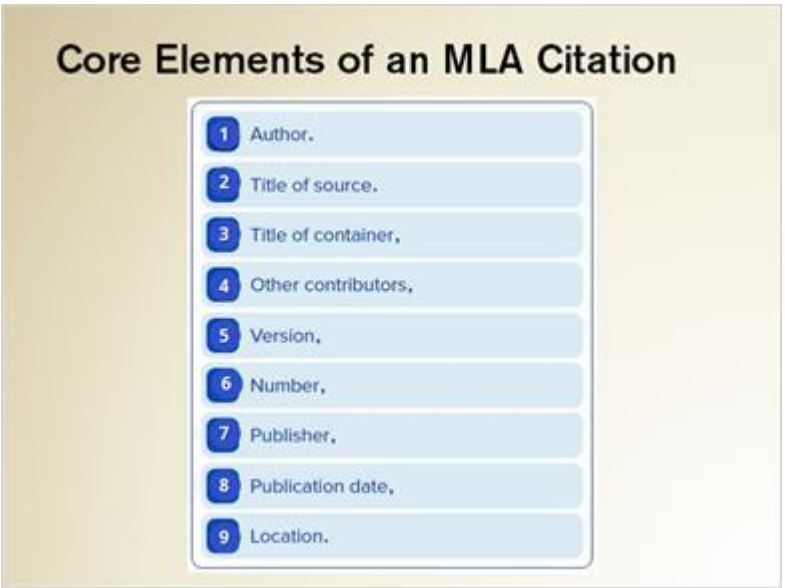
MLA, like all citation styles, follows a specific order with indentations, capitalization and punctuation.

The 8th edition of MLA represents some big changes in how MLA citations are constructed with an emphasis on the idea of “containers”.

A container is the larger whole that holds the source with components or core elements.

Examples of containers may be a database, website, book or a journal that contains articles.

4.2 Core Elements



Notes:

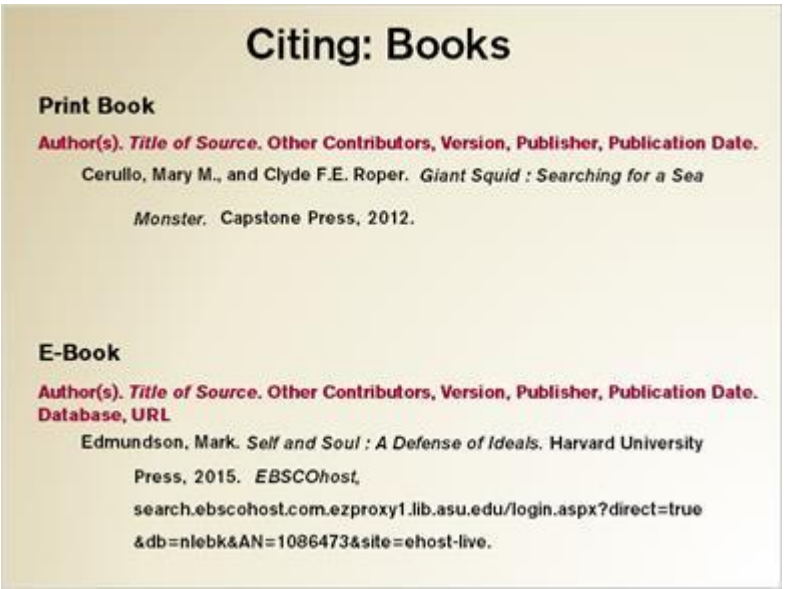
The 8th edition of MLA focuses on the core elements of a citation. There are 9 elements that generally apply to any source you cite but not all will have every element. It is up to you to determine which elements are specific to a given source in the “Works Cited” list.

Although there is some flexibility about which elements fit the source, the

order they appear within the citation is prescribed.

Click on each element number to learn about that element.

4.3 Books



Let's look at a few book citations. Remember MLA requires these be placed in a precise order based on the core elements.

The elements of a print book citation and an e-book citation are identical except for the inclusion of a URL at the end of the e-book citation.

To view the elements of the citations, roll your mouse over each for an explanation.

Also, remember to view the additional elements of the e-book citation!

4.4 Journal Articles

Journal articles can be either print or online and they are often in both

forms.

For the purpose of this tutorial we will focus on the variations between how a print journal article and an online journal article are cited in *MLA Style*.

4.5 Article Citations Compared

As with other sources there is a prescribed order for journal citations: Author, Title of Article, Journal Title, Volume Number, Issue Number, Date and Page Numbers.

In comparing these citations of the same article notice that the elements are the same except the online version includes either the URL as in this example or a DOI that is unique to the source.

To view the elements of the citations, roll your mouse over each for an explanation.

Also, remember to view the additional elements of the e-book citation!

4.6 Article from Database

Journal articles may also be found in a research database.

In this case, the article, published in the *Journal of Chemistry*, was found in the database *Academic Search Premier.*

The elements are formatted in the same the order as other citations with the addition of the database name and a link to the article as is appears in the database.

4.7 Web Source

A web source might be an entire website which is a collection of web pages or it might be an article, a blog post or document on the website.

Again, the citation follows the order of the core elements.

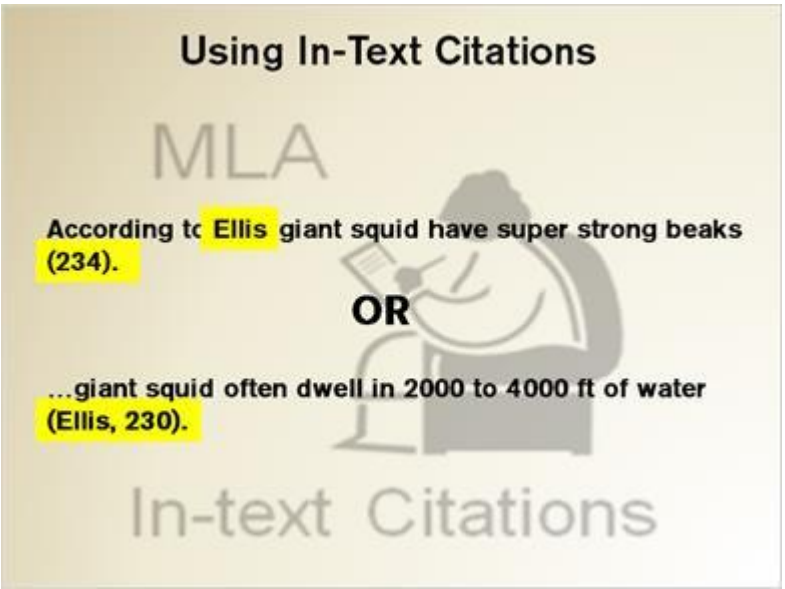
The author is the first element of the citation and may be an individual, organization or other group. If the author/editor is an individual the name is listed in reverse order the same as with other sources.

The URL may be long as in the 2nd example but it is important to include it all so the reader can find the original source.

To view the elements of the citations, roll your mouse over each for an explanation.

5. In-Text Citations and Works Cited

5.1 In-Text citations



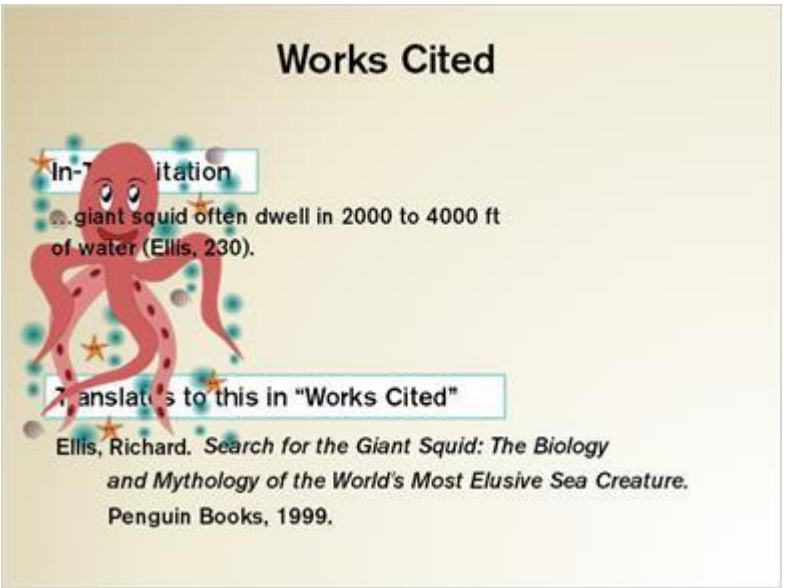
Creating a “Works Cited” list is only one part of the citing process.

Using a person’s words or ideas in a paper requires an in-text citation be included. This generally includes the author’s name and a page number and refers the reader to the full citation in the “Works Cited” list at the end of the paper.

Two common options for in-text citations include the author’s name in the text of the sentence with only the page number in parentheses.

Or the author’s last name, a comma and the page number within parentheses at the end of the sentence.

5.2 Works Cited



Notes:

An in-text citation might look like this within the body of a paper

In the "Works Cited" list it appears in this order:

Author's last name comma author's first name followed by a period.

Book title in italics followed by a period.

Publisher name followed by a comma

And last, the publication date followed by a period.

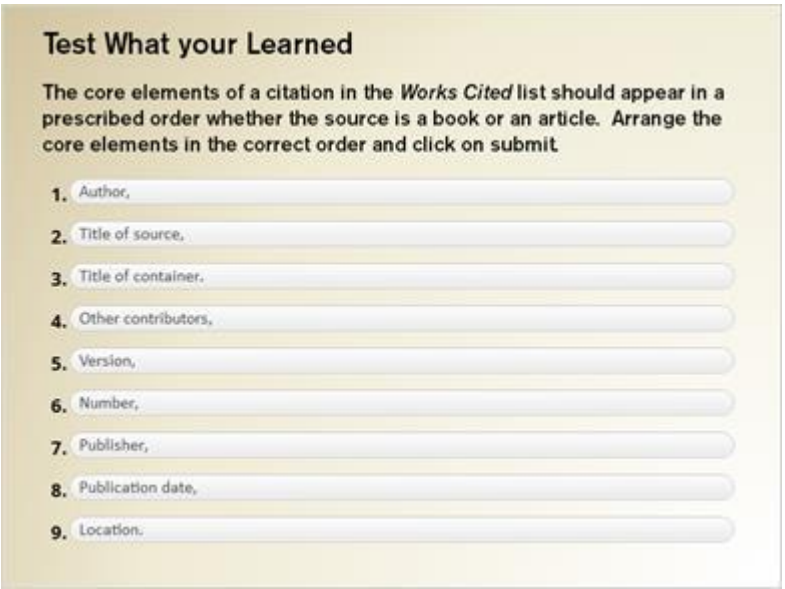
Notice the 2nd & 3rd lines are indented.

The citation information makes it easy for your readers to search for & find

this book.

5.3 Core Elements of Citation Activity

Arrange the core elements in the correct order and click on submit.



Correct Order
Author,
Title of source,
Title of container.
Other contributors,
Version,
Number,
Publisher,

Publication date,
Location.

5.4 Book Citation Activity

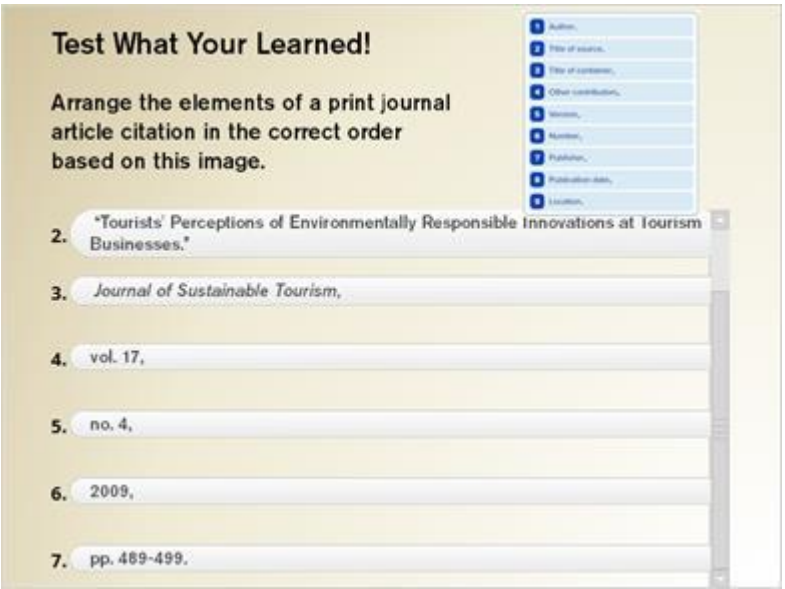
Arrange the elements of a book citation in the correct order based on this image.

Correct Order
Miller, Casey, and Kate Swift.
Words and Women.
Updated ed.,
HarperCollins Publishers,

1991.

5.5 Print Journal Citation Activity

Arrange the elements of a print journal article citation in the correct order based on this image.



Correct Order
Andereck, Kathleen L.
"Tourists' Perceptions of Environmentally Responsible Innovations at Tourism Businesses."
Journal of Sustainable Tourism,
vol. 17,
no. 4,
2009,
pp. 489-499.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Learning Outcomes

Now that you have completed this tutorial, you can:

- describe the importance of citing sources
- recognize that MLA Style is commonly used in the humanities disciplines such as English
- identify the core elements of a citation in *MLA Style*
- create citations using *MLA Style*
- understand the importance of & create in-text citations

6.2 Conclusion

Congratulations, you've completed the *MLA Citation Style* tutorial!

Click on the "Next" button to complete a brief quiz.