

# MLA Citations Overview: 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.



## In-text citations:

MLA uses an author-location system of citation. You can cite in 2 ways:

**Signal phrase:** According to Stevens, modern poetry “has to find what will suffice” (132).

**Parenthetical:** Modern poetry “has to find what will suffice” (Stevens 132).

### **Parenthetical examples:**

One author with page number: (Stevens 132)

Two authors: (Rodriguez and Pitts 52)

Three or more authors: (Jones et al. 192)

2 works by the same author (book example): (Coetzee, *Disgrace* 34)

2 works by same author (poem example): (Eliot, “Preludes” 311)

Citing multiple sources in the same parenthetical: (Conrad 3; Joyce 21)

No author: Use a shortened version of the title of the work: (“State-based” 16)

Indirect source: (qtd. in Joyce 450)

No comma between the name and page #

### **Parenthetical citations with locations other than page #s**

For EBooks without stable page numbers, cite by chapter when available: (Rowley ch. 2)

For websites without page #s, optionally include the paragraph/section: (Jones par. 8) or (Jones)

For longer videos, cite the time stamp of the relevant portion: (Vendler 18:17-32:00)

For plays/poems, cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part, or line): (Hamlet 1.5.35-37)

**Whatever you put in parentheses should match the first line of your source for the Works Cited page.**

## Works Cited:

All references, from books to YouTube videos, should include the following basic pieces of information, **if applicable**:

1. Author	6. Number ( <i>volume number for journals</i> )
2. Title of source	7. Publisher
3. Title of <b>container</b> ( <i>see below</i> )	8. Publication date
4. Other contributors ( <i>editors, translators, etc.</i> )	9. Location ( <i>page #, URL or DOI</i> )
5. Version ( <i>edition</i> )	

DOI: the digital object identifier

DOIs are preferred over URLs, if available.

List the information from #1-9 in order. Include applicable information #4-9 after the first container, and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> container if applicable.

### **Examples of sources with 1 or 2 containers:**

**Source:** A journal article. **Container 1:** Scholarly Journal, **Container 2:** Library Database

**Source:** A chapter/article in an edited volume. **Container 1:** The edited volume

**Source:** A page or article on a website. **Container 1:** The website

### **Book example: (no container)**

Miller, Casey, and Kate Swift. *Words and Women*. 3rd ed., Harper Collins Publishers, 1991.

2 authors:  
Last name, first name, and first last

Title in italics

Edition number

Publisher

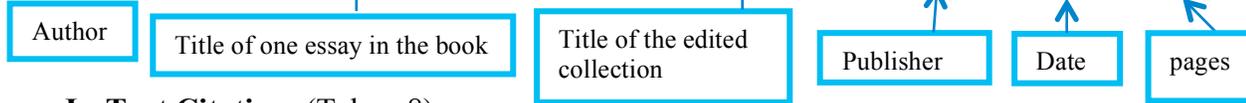
Date

**In-Text Citation:** (Casey and Swift 56)

# MLA Citations Overview: 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.

## Essay from an edited collection: (one container: the edited collection)

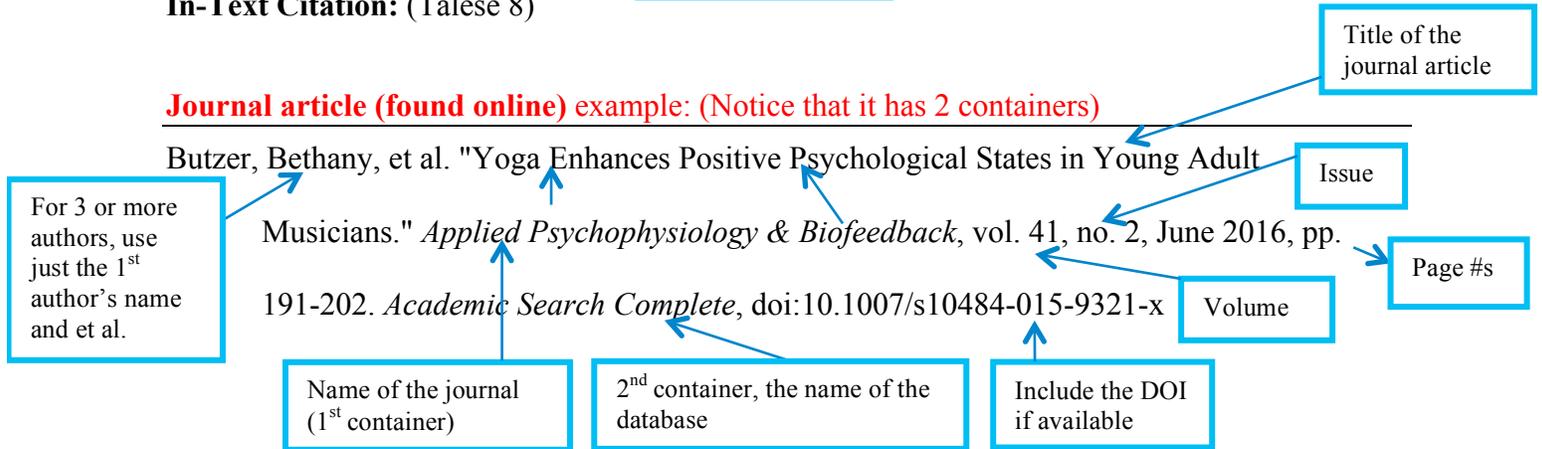
Talese, Gay. "Delving into Private Lives." *Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers' Guide*, edited by Kramer, Mark, and Wendy Call, 1st ed., U of Harvard P, 2007, pp. 6-9.



**In-Text Citation:** (Talese 8)

## Journal article (found online) example: (Notice that it has 2 containers)

Butzer, Bethany, et al. "Yoga Enhances Positive Psychological States in Young Adult Musicians." *Applied Psychophysiology & Biofeedback*, vol. 41, no. 2, June 2016, pp. 191-202. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1007/s10484-015-9321-x

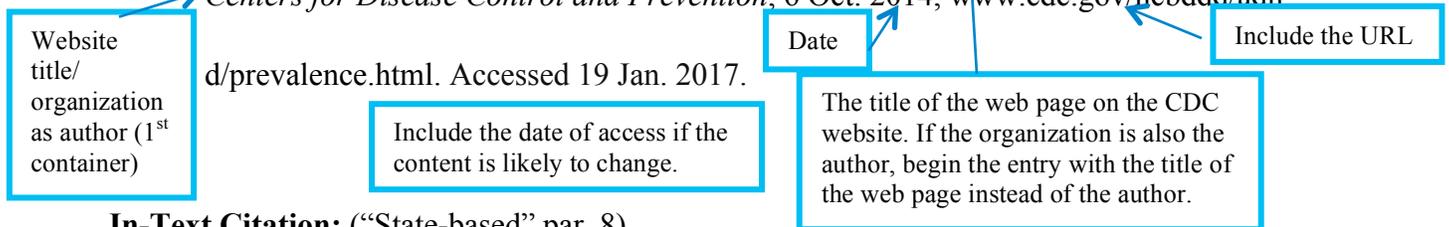


**In-Text Citation:** (Butzer et al. 198)

## Page on a website example: (one container)

"State-based Prevalence Data of Parent Reported ADHD Diagnosis by a Health Care Provider."

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 6 Oct. 2014, [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/prevalence.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/prevalence.html). Accessed 19 Jan. 2017.



**In-Text Citation:** ("State-based" par. 8)

## Article from an online newspaper example: (one container)

Beck, Julie. "Untangling Gun Violence from Mental Illness." *The Atlantic*, 7 June 2016, [www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/06/untangling-gun-violence-from-mental-illness/485906/](http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/06/untangling-gun-violence-from-mental-illness/485906/)



**In-Text Citation:** (Beck par. 3)

Visit the Writing Center for more help on formatting sources. 😊