

MLA Citations Overview: 8th Ed.



In-text citations:

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

Signal phrase: Stevens claims that 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 container , (<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

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

DOIs are
preferred
over URLs,
if available.

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

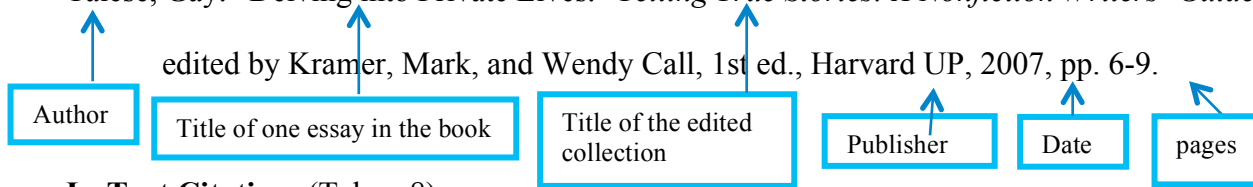
Date

In-Text Citation: (Casey and Swift 56)

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

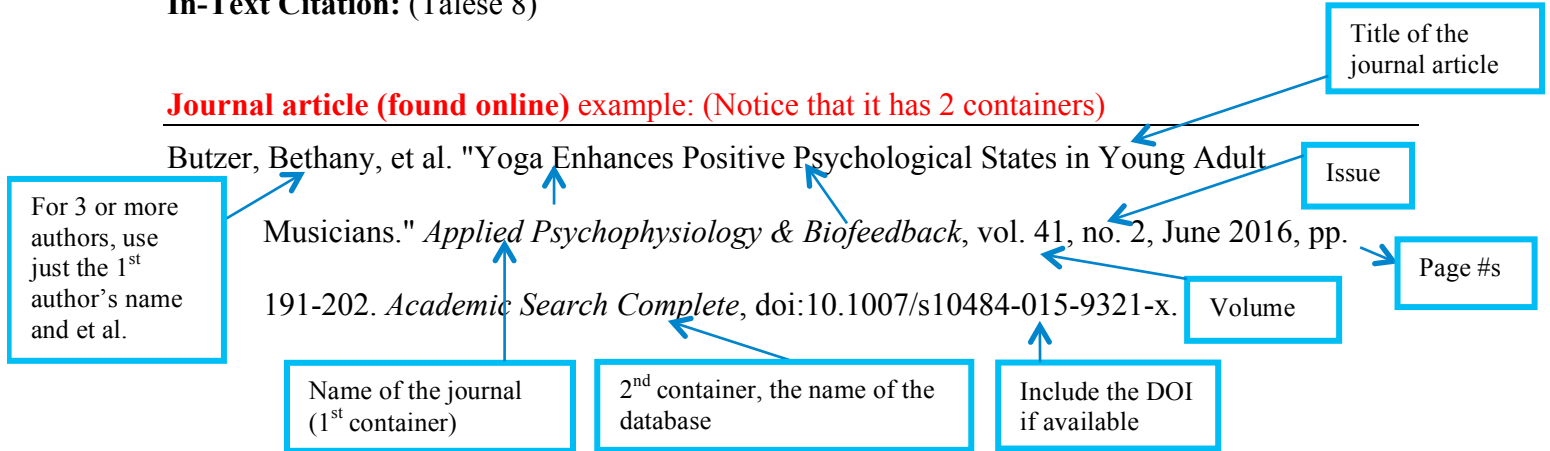
Talese, Gay. "Delving into Private Lives." *Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers' Guide*, edited by Kramer, Mark, and Wendy Call, 1st ed., Harvard UP, 2007, pp. 6-9.



In-Text Citation: (Talese 8)

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

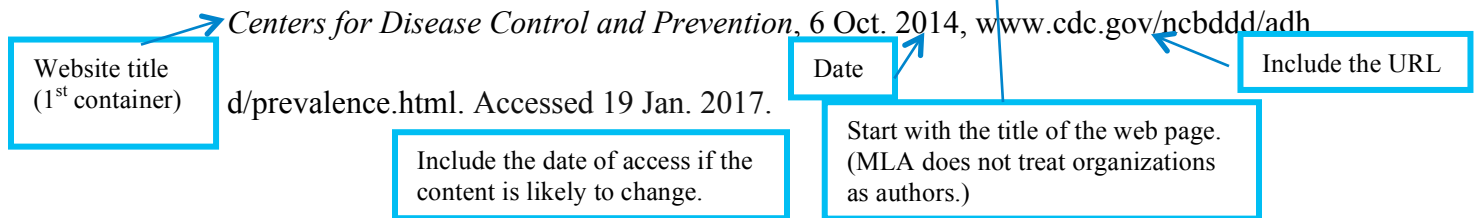
Butzer, Bethany, et al. "Yoga Enhances Positive Psychological States in Young Adult Musicians." *Applied Psychophysiology & Biofeedback*, vol. 41, no. 2, June 2016, pp. 191-202. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1007/s10484-015-9321-x.



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

Page on a website example: (one container)

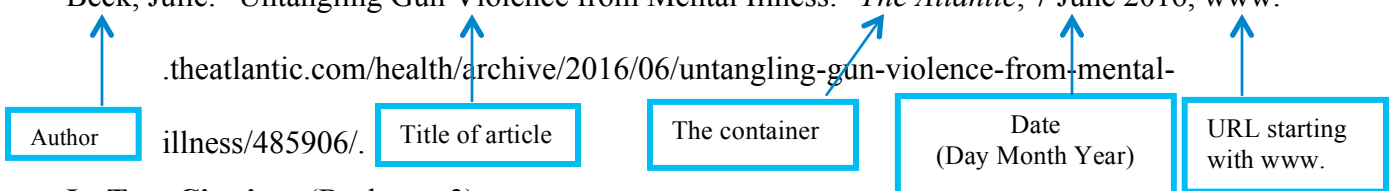
"State-based Prevalence Data of Parent Reported ADHD Diagnosis by a Health Care Provider." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 6 Oct. 2014, www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/prevalence.html. Accessed 19 Jan. 2017.



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/.



In-Text Citation: (Beck par. 3)

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