The recommendations in this guide are based on the 8th edition (2016) of the MLA Handbook. For more in-depth explanation of formatting and preparing works cited lists, please consult the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook, available at the Library Reference Desk, or the MLA Style Center, style.mla.org.

In studying the history and progression of female characters in young adult fiction novels a few trends become apparent. The archetype of the strong female lead has all but disappeared in recent years. One example of this trend is the characterization of the female lead in the Twilight Saga.

A Study of Female Characters in Young Adult Fiction

In studying the history and progression of female characters in young adult fiction novels a few trends become apparent. The archetype of the strong female lead has all but disappeared in recent years. One example of this trend is the characterization of the female lead in the Twilight Saga.
Italicized Titles (MLA 25-31, 68-71)

Italize the names of books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, journals), web sites, online databases, films, television and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, operas and other long musical compositions (except those identified simply by form, number, and key), works of visual art, ships, aircraft, and spacecraft.

Titles in Quotation Marks (MLA 25-31,68-71)

Use quotation marks for the titles of articles, essays, stories, and poems published within larger works or “containers”, such as chapters of books, pages in Web sites, individual episodes of television and radio broadcasts, and short musical compositions (e.g., songs). Also use quotation marks for unpublished works, such as lectures and speeches.

Italicize a title normally indicated by italics when it appears within a title enclosed in quotation marks.

Parenthetical Documentation (MLA 54-58, 116-124)

Whenever you directly cite or paraphrase anyone else’s words or ideas insert a brief parenthetical reference in your paper. Use the author’s last name and the page number of the reference to identify the source and location of the citation.

Example

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me” (Meyer 1).

The parenthetical reference (Meyer 1) indicates that the quotation comes from page 1 of a work by Meyer. The author’s last name will lead the reader to the full publication information in the alphabetically arranged list of works cited.
Quotations (MLA 55, 75-91)

If a quotation runs no more than four lines and requires no special emphasis, put it in quotation marks and incorporate it into the text.

If the author’s name is given in the text or as a lead-in to the quotation, then include only the page number. If a quotation ends a sentence, place the sentence period after the reference.

**Example**

Meyer describes Bella’s feelings, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me” (1).

Without an introductory phrase, the author and page are placed together.

**Example**

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me” (Meyer 1).

If a quotation extends to more than four lines when run into the text, set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting half an inch from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks. A colon generally introduces a quotation displayed this way.

**Example**

At the conclusion of Meyer’s *Eclipse*, Jacob receives a letter:

It was some heavy, stiff paper. Expensive. Too fancy for Forks. The card inside was the same, too done-up and formal. Bella’d had nothing to do with this. There was no sign of her personal taste in the layers of see-through, petal-printed pages. I’d bet she didn’t like it at all. I didn’t read the words, not even to see the date. I didn’t care. There was a piece of the thick ivory paper folded in half with my name handwritten in black ink on the back. I didn’t recognize the handwriting, but it was as fancy as the rest of it. (627)

**NOTE**

Indented Quotations

The period is placed at the end of the sentence, NOT after the page number. Applies to indented quotations ONLY.
Whenever you wish to omit a word, a phrase, a sentence, or more from a quoted passage, use ellipsis points, or three spaced periods with a space before each and a space after the last, to indicate that your quotation does not completely reproduce the original.

**Example**

Meyer describes Bella’s feelings, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me ... I knew that we could expect no help—at this moment, his family was fighting for their lives just as surely as he was for ours” (1).
Works Cited List (style.mla.org/formatting-papers)

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper on a new page and continues the page numbering of the text.

- Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page.
- Double-space between the title and the first entry.
- Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin (“hanging indentation”).
- Double space the entire list, both between and within entries.

Arrangement of Entries (MLA 111-115)

- Entries in a works-cited list are arranged in alphabetical order by the author’s last name.
- If two or more entries citing coauthors begin with the same name, alphabetize by the last names of the second authors listed.
- If the author’s name is unknown, alphabetize by the title, ignoring any initial A, An, or The or the equivalent in another language.

Example of a Works Cited List


The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me” (Meyer 1).

To cite two or more works by the same author, give the name in the first entry only. In all following entries, place three hyphens in place of the name.

Example


Include a shortened title for the work you are referencing. (MLA 117)

In Text Example

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, “With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me” (Meyer Eclipse 1).
Book by Two Authors (MLA 21)

If there are two authors, list the authors according to the order of the names on the title page. Reverse only the name of the first author, add a comma, and give the other name or names in normal form.

**Example**


See MLA 116

**In Text Example**

“Chester and I were unable to continue our conversation because a deafening crash commanded our attention” (Howe and Howe 10).

---

Book by Three or More Authors (MLA 21-22, 116)

If there are three or more authors, you may name only the first and add *et al.* (“and others”).

**Example**


**In Text Example**

Elevator installation is an involved and dangerous project that requires the knowledge of skilled, trained mechanics (Gagliano et al. 26).
A Work in an Anthology or Collection (MLA 30-42)

Use this example for citing an essay in an anthology or edited collection as well as a chapter in a book

Example


An Article in a Reference Book (MLA 30-39)

Example


An Introduction, a Preface, a Foreward, or an Afterward (MLA 105-107)

Example

An Anonymous Book (MLA 115, 117-118)

If a book has no author’s or editor’s name on the title page, begin the entry with the title. Alphabetize the entry by the title, ignoring any initial A, An, or The.

Example


In a parenthetical reference to a work alphabetized by title in the list of works cited, abbreviate the title to its initial noun phrase. In this example, the full title, Basic History of Immigration, is abbreviated as Basic History.

In Text Example

The development of nativist sentiment and the restrictive immigration laws that followed in the 19th century tell a complex story steeped in the fear of the unknown (Basic History 15).

A Translation (MLA 37)

Example


Edition Other Than First (MLA 38)

Example

Published Dissertation (style.mla.org/2016/07/07/citing-dissertations)

**Example**


If the dissertation was accessed through an online repository, add the repository provider name and the URL of the dissertation.

**Example**

Print Periodical Citation - General Format

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical, vol. x, no. x, season or month, Year: pp. x-xx.

NOTE
Multiple Authors
Citation of multiple authors is the same for books and periodical articles.

An Article in a Magazine (MLA 39-40)

Example


An Article in a Newspaper (MLA 42-45)

Use the date as it appears in the publication you cited (print and online).

Example


If the city name does not appear in the newspaper name, place the city of publication in brackets after the name (MLA 111).

Example

An Anonymous Article (MLA 24)

If no author’s name is given for the article you are citing, begin the entry with the title. Ignore any initial A, An, or The when you alphabetize the entry.

**Example**


An Article in a Scholarly Journal (MLA 21-50)

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, vol x, no x, year, pp. xx-xx.

**Example**


If you found the article in a database, see “Article in a Online Database” below.
Web Site

Entire Web Site

Author(s). Name of Site. Name of sponsor or publisher, date of publication, URL.

- When citing a website, do not include http://
- If you cannot find some of the information, cite what is available.
- If the author is unknown, put the name of the article or the name of the web site in the author position.
- A website whose title is essentially the same as the name of its publisher may omit the publisher name.
- If the publication date is unknown, substitute the publication date with the date the site was accessed.
- DOIs and permalinks, when available, are preferred over URLs.
- For in-text citations, use the first item that appears in the Works Cited entry that corresponds to the citation. Most often, this will be the author or name of the site.

Example


Page or article from a web site

Example


If the document does not have page or paragraph numbers do not include them in the parenthetical citation. Do not include URLs in text.

In Text Example

In “How to Build Paper Airplanes” Marks argues that making paper airplanes can be therapeutic.

In Text Example

Some argue that making paper airplanes can be therapeutic (Marks).
Article in an Online Database (MLA 32)

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Title of Journal, volume, issue, year, pages. Title of the Database, URL or DOI.

Example