Citing New Media in MLA
(Online Videos, Blogs, E-books, Twitter, and Facebook)

Sometimes you may need to cite web media such as an online video, a blog post, an e-book, a Facebook page/post/comment, or Twitter post. However, it is difficult to find information on *how* to cite these sources. The MLA Handbook does not clearly cover citing these types of sources. However, it does cover how to cite web-based documents of comparable forms, which we have used as the basis for the citation examples below. You may want to check with your professors about their expectations for citing these types of sources. They may want you to approach doing so differently from what we have provided here.

Also, it is important to keep in mind that these sources are typically unsuitable as secondary sources, perhaps with the exception of certain professional blogs. It is more appropriate that these types of sources be used as primary sources that show evidence of the argument you are trying to make. Inappropriate usage might include using a YouTube video made by a fan as biographical information in a research paper about John Lennon.

Online Video
- **For Works Cited**

The MLA handbook states that the following information is needed to cite a work found on the web in a form other than print:
1. *Title of the database or Web site (italicized)*
2. *Medium of publication consulted (Web)*
3. *Date of access (day, month, and year)*

<div align="center">(MLA 189)</div>

There are often multiple avenues through which you can access a video online. Depending on where you access the video and how much of the video you are referencing, the citations may appear different. A common example of this would be a television episode that is available on a network's website or clips of the show that are available on their YouTube channel. If the whole video is accessed on a website, it is treated very similarly to the MLA requirements for a film or video recording:

> *An entry for a film usually begins with the author's name, title, source (italicized), who uploaded the video, date, and the link to the video. You may include other data that seem pertinent—such as the names of the screenwriter, performers, and producer—between the title and the distributor.* (*MLA* 197)

Therefore the citation may look something like this:

Template:

Dir. First and Last Name of director. Prod. First and Last Name of producer, "Video Title," *Source*, uploaded by First and
    Last Name, 4 October 2021, hyper link to video

If the video is an episode of a larger work, the title of the video or episode would appear first, inside quotation marks, followed by the title of the show in italics:

Template:

"Title of the Episode." *Title of the Show*. Dir. First and Last Name of director. Prod. First and Last Name of producer.
    Perf. First and Last Name of performers, separated by commas. *Name of the Website*. The Corporate or
    Organizational Site Provider, Date Posted. Web. Date of access.

An episode of *Glee,* "Dynamic Duets," available on Fox's website, may then appear something like this:

Example:

"Dynamic Duets." *Glee.* Dir. Ryan Murphy. *Fox.* Fox, 22 Nov. 2012. Web. 17 Jan. 2013.

If the video was accessed through a provider like Hulu, it may appear like this:

Example:

"Dynamic Duets." *Glee*, season X, episode X, Fox, 22 Nov. 2012. *Hulu.* www.hulu.com.....

However, if you wanted to cite a video that is only a portion of the episode the title of the video replaces the title of the episode in the citation:

Template:

"Title of the Video." *Title of the Show.* Dir. First and Last Name of director. Prod. First and Last Name of producer. Perf. First and Last Name of performers, separated by commas. season X, episode X, XX Production, date.

So, for example, a clip of the performance of "Some Nights" from the episode "Dynamic Duets" on *Glee,* available on Fox's website, may appear like this:

Example:

"Some Nights." *Glee.* Dir. Ryan Murphy, performance by XX, season X, episode X, Fox, 22 Nov. 2012.

However, this format changes when the video is accessed on video sharing sites like YouTube because the uploader's username takes precedence over the title of the video. Also, the title of the show is dropped. Therefore the format may appear like this:

Template:

Uploader's Name. "Title of the Video." Dir. First and Last Name of director. Prod. First and Last Name of producer. Perf. First and Last Name of performers, separated by commas. *Name of the Website*. The Corporate or Organizational Site Provider, Date Posted. Web. Date of access.

So, for the example, "Some Nights", above, the YouTube format would use the full title of the YouTube video and may appear like this:

Example:

GleeOnFox. "Full Performance of 'Some Nights', 'Dynamic Duets', GLEE." Dir. Ryan Murphy. *YouTube.* YouTube, 22 Nov. 2012. Web. 17 Jan. 2013.

Here are some more examples of videos accessed through two different avenues:

Examples:

"Gun Control Passes in NYS." *WNYT*. WNYT, Albany, 15 Jan. 2012. Web. 17 Jan. 2013.

WNYT13. "Gun Control Passes in NYS." *YouTube.* YouTube, 15 Jan. 2012. Web. 17 Jan. 2013.

Of course you may also encounter videos that don't come from official uploaders. In these cases be careful to assess the accountability of these videos, but try to fill in as many elements of the template given above.

Examples:

collegeofsaintrose. "The College of Saint Rose". *YouTube*. uploaded by collegeofsaintrose, 12 Nov. 2012, URL.
WarnerBrosPictures. "HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS-PART 1 Clip- 'No One Else is Going to
Die for Me.'" Dir. David Yates. Perf. Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. *YouTube*. uploaded by
WarnerBrosPictures, 4 Nov. 2010. URL.
MisterBadger78. "Get Thee to the Writing Center!" *YouTube*. uploaded by MisterBadger78, 22 Apr. 2008., URL.

- ## For In-Text Citations

The MLA handbook states that "sources such as films, television broadcasts, performances and electronic sources with no pagination or other type of reference markers cannot be cited by number. Such works are usually cited in their entirety and often by title" (215). In these cases it is often best to include the work in the text, rather than in a parenthetical citation, but here are a couple of examples for how this might look:

Examples:

In a WNYT online broadcast entitled "Gun Control Passes in NYS," the governor discussed the following factors…

It's clear that *Glee*'s cast members are talented singers, and this is exemplified in their spectacular rendition of Fun.'s "Some Nights" ("Dynamic Duets").

Blogs
For Works Cited

Blogs, or web-logs, have the potential of being excellent sources, depending on the qualifications of their writers. Citing these sources can be confusing because sometimes you are missing valuable information, like the author's name, and there is rarely any publishing information. The MLA handbook suggests citing blogs like you would a regular online source. So it would look like this:

Template:

Author of Blog. "Title of Blog Post." *Title of the Overall Website.* Version number, Name of organization (Publisher or
Sponsor) of the Site, URL. Date of Publication.

** If the publisher of sponsor is unavailable, use N.p. If the date of publication is unavailable, use n.d. **

Example:

Jenkins, Henry. "One Book, One School, or This is Henry's Brain at Annenberg." *Confessions of an Aca-Fan.* Version X,
Henry Jenkins. 30 March 2012. www...com.

Sometimes a blog posting may be by someone other than the blog author. *The Prentice Hall Reference Guide* provides valuable insight into sighting a blog posting in this instance.

> *If the posting is from a writer other than the blog owner, list the author of the posting, the title of the posting (in quotation marks), the blog title (italicized), and then By and the blog owner.*
>
> (Harris and Kunka 436)

So, the resulting citation may look like this:

Template:

Author of the Post. "Title of Blog Post." *Title of Blog*. Version X, By Blog Owner. Publisher or sponsor of the site. Date of publication. Medium. Date of access. URL.

Example:

Kligler-Vilenchik, Neta. "Why Youth are Drawn to Invisible Children: Prefiguring Kony 2012." *Confessions of an Aca-Fan*. Version X, By Henry Jenkins. Henry Jenkins. 12 March 2012. www...com.

More Examples:

Mehan's Kitchen. "Cinnamon Rolls." *Mehan's Kitchen*. Blogger Schmidt, Gregory. *Publisher*. Date, URL.
"Enhancing Family Game Night." *Gadgetwise*. NYTimes.com. 3 April 2012. URL.

- **For In-Text Citations**

If the source provides numbered paragraphs, it is best to provide these in the in-text citations preceded by either *par.* or *pars.* However, if a source does not provide numbered paragraphs this is not required.

Example:

It is important to watch the time when baking cinnamon rolls because the cinnamon can burn easily (Mehan's Kitchen, par. 8).

E-books
• **For Works Cited**

According to the MLA website, an e-book is cited very similarly to the way a printed book is cited, with the exception that the medium is no longer *print*, but *Kindle file, Nook file,* etc. *Digital file* may be used if the file type cannot be identified.

Template:

Author. *Title of Book*. Location of Publication: Publisher, Year published. Medium.

Example:

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl.* E-book or Kindle file, New York: Hyperion Books, 2009.

• **For In-Text Citations**

The MLA website also provides suggestions for citing an e-book in in-text citations:

> Most electronic readers include a numbering system that tells users their location in the work. Do not cite this numbering, because it may not appear consistently to other users. If the work is divided into stable sections like chapters, the numbers of those sections may be cited, with a label identifying the nature of the number.

Example:

Artemis shows vulnerability when talking to his delusional mother (Colfer, ch. 2).

Social Networking Sites

Though there are many forms of social networking sites on the internet, Facebook and Twitter are two of the most popular. These sites pose interesting conundrums when concerning citation styles because, like YouTube, the material can always be modified or removed by their authors.

Twitter
- ## For Works Cited

Recently, MLA has issued the following suggestions for citing tweets:

Begin the entry in the works-cited list with the author's user name, include @.

Next provide the entire text of the tweet in quotation marks, without changing the capitalization. Conclude the entry with the medium 'Twitter'. Next, include the date and time of the message, URL.

@tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign". *Twitter*, 22 Jan. 2021, . 3:06 a.m., twitter.com/tombroakaw/status/1609968.

(owl.purdue.edu)

So, a tweet should follow this format:

Template:

User Name. "Entire text of the tweet." *Twitter*, Date of Message, Time of Message. URL

This proves very helpful, and here are two examples of other tweet citations:

Example:

@Stephenathome. "Obama has called the GOP budget social Darwinism. Nice try, but they believe in social creationism." *Twitter,* 4 April 2012, 10:08 a.m. twitter.com/stwphenathome/ststus/

- ## For In-Text Citations

The MLA website states that tweets should be quoted in their entirety when discussed in the text.

Examples:

Regarding his speech at the ASNE conference in Washington on April 3rd, President Obama tweeted, "I believe this is a make-or-break moment for the middle class."
Or
It's clear that the Democratic party is aware of middle class concerns: "I believe this is a make-or-break moment for the middle class" (Obama).

Facebook
- ## **For Works Cited**

With all of this said, MLA has not issued any comments on ways to cite Facebook posts or pages. However, *The Prentice Hall Reference Guide* recommends treating a personal page like a normal webpage, using the person's name in place of the author's name:

Template:

Person's Name. *Facebook: Person's Name.* Facebook, Year. Web. Date of Access.

Example:

The College of Saint Rose. *Facebook: The College of Saint Rose*. Facebook, 2013. Web. 23 Jan. 2013.

The Prentice Hall Reference Guide also suggests the following for citing a section of a personal page on a social networking site: "if the cited work is untitled, indicate the type of source it is by using a descriptor (e.g., *Comment, Online Posting, Introduction,* etc.)" (436).

So, the format would look something like this:

Template:

Name of Poster. "Title of Post." Type of Source. *Facebook: Page Owner.* Facebook, Date posted. Web. Date of Access.

Examples:

English Department at The College of Saint Rose. "A new call for graduate papers up on the blog! This conference will be held at Saint Rose in September: check it out!" Online Posting. *Facebook: English Department at The College of Saint Rose.* Facebook, 10 Apr. 2012. Web. 11 Apr. 2012.

The College of Saint Rose Career Center. About Page. *Facebook: The College of Saint Rose Career Center.* Facebook, n.d. Web. 11 Apr. 2012.

Rose, Jenny. "I love this school!" Online Posting. *Facebook: The College of Saint Rose.* Facebook, 10 Apr. 2012. Web 11 Apr. 2012.

- ## **For In-Text Citations**

Once again, MLA has not issued any recommendations for in-text citations for Facebook. However, they can still be treated like a normal webpage. There are no numbered paragraphs on Facebook, so only the author is required.

Examples:

The career center at The College of Saint Rose provides walk-in services for resume and cover letter development (The College of Saint Rose Career Center).

Students often rave about The College of Saint Rose on Facebook: "I love this school!" (Rose).

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The College of Saint Rose Writing Center, Updated 2021

Created with information from:

Purdue OWL (MLA 9th Edition)

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/
mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html

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Still need help with MLA? Here are some additional resources:

- The Writing Center: Schedule an appointment on Navigate!
- Purdue OWL website https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/
  mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html
- Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Format. From *The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University.* http://

  owl.english.purdue.edu/

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The College of Saint Rose, 2013

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