

MLA Citation Style QuickGuide

Last update: July 3, 2020

This guide is based on the 8th edition (2016) of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. For further explanation and for more examples, please consult the *Handbook*, which is available in [print](#), and the [MLA Style Center](#), which is online.

MLA style includes **in-text citations** throughout your work and a **works cited list** at the end of your work, which provides full details about your cited sources.

Works Cited list

Works Cited entries should be organized alphabetically and formatted with a hanging indent, like the example on the second-last page of this guide. See the [MLA Style Center](#) for formatting details.

Works Cited entries may contain the following elements. **If any of the elements are not relevant or not included in the work you're citing, move on to the next element.**

1	Author/creator.	E.g., writer, editor, artist, director.
2	Title of source.	Titles of sources that are part of a larger work are in "quotation marks." Titles of independent works are in <i>italics</i> .
3	Title of container,	E.g., a journal is the container for an article. A single source may have multiple containers. E.g., a journal article in a database has two containers: the journal and the database.
4	Other contributors,	E.g., editors, translators.
5	Version,	E.g., a specific edition of a book.
6	Number,	E.g., a volume of a book, or a volume and issue of a journal article.
7	Publisher,	The organization responsible for producing the work or making it public.
8	Publication date.	See the examples in this guide for date variations and formats.
9	Location,	E.g., page numbers, DOI (digital object identifier), URL. When a DOI is provided, it should be used instead of a URL.
10	Optional elements.	E.g., the original date of publication for a republished work, the source type for "unexpected" formats such as lectures, the date of access for a webpage.

Note: The examples in this guide are **colour-coded** to match each of the elements above.

Tip: Use the [MLA Practice Template](#) to help assemble your Works Cited entries.

In-text citations (see p. 54-58 & sec. 3, *MLA Handbook*)

In-text citations are usually structured like this: (Author's Last Name page(s) cited).

If your source has **no page numbers** (e.g. a sound recording or a webpage), then no page numbers can be given in your in-text citation. For time-based media such as sound recordings or videos, times or time ranges should be included.

How to format author names (see p. 21-22, 54-58, & sec. 3.1, *MLA Handbook*)

Author type	Start of Works Cited entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in your sentence)
1 author	Alfar, Cristina L.	(Alfar 57)	Alfar ... (57)
2 authors	Stuessy, Joe, and Scott Lipscomb.	(Stuessy and Lipscomb 302)	Stuessy and Lipscomb ... (302)
3 or more authors	Christopher, Kameron R., et al.	(Kameron et al. 61)	Kameron et al. ... (61)
Organization	United Nations Human Settlements Programme.	(United Nations Human Settlements Programme 76)	United Nations Human Settlements Programme ... (76)
No author	"Charlie Chaplin."	("Charlie Chaplin")	"Charlie Chaplin"

Source	Works Cited entry	In-text citation
Book (See sec. 1.6.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Alfar, Cristina L. <i>Fantasies of Female Evil: The Dynamics of Gender and Power in Shakespearean Tragedy</i> . U of Delaware P, 2003.	(Alfar 57)
Book Specified edition (See sec. 3.1.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Stuessy, Joe, and Scott Lipscomb. <i>Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development</i> . 7th ed., Pearson, 2013.	(Stuessy and Lipscomb 302)
Ebook With print publication data (See pp. 35 and 48, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Dickens, Charles. <i>Great Expectations</i> . Estes and Lauriat, 1881. Google Books , books.google.ca/books?id=fhUXAAAAAYAAJ .	(Dickens 425)
Ebook Digital file (See p. 34, <i>MLA Handbook</i> and <i>MLA Style Center</i>)	Slawenski, Kenneth. <i>J.D. Salinger: A Life</i> . EPUB, Random, 2011. NOTE: Give the type of ebook in the Version element of your citation. If you do not know what type of ebook you consulted, use "e-book" instead (see MLA Style Center).	(Slawenski ch. 3) NOTE: Do not use page numbers "unless you know that it appears consistently to other users." You may cite chapter numbers instead (see sec. 3.3.3, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).
Ebook Organization as author, From a library database (See pp. 34 and 48, sec. 2.1.3, and sec. 3.1.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	United Nations Human Settlements Programme. <i>Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility: Global Report on Human Settlements 2013</i> . Routledge, 2013. <i>Ebsco Ebook Collection</i> , search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=658797&site=ehost-live&scope=site . NOTE: If the organization is both author and publisher, start the citation with the title of the work, skipping the author element (see sec. 2.1.3, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(United Nations Human Settlements Programme 76)
Edited book (See p. 23, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Froggatt, Katherine, et al., editors. <i>Understanding Care Homes: A Research and Development Perspective</i> . Kingsley, 2009.	(Froggatt et al. 55-57)
Chapter, article, or essay In an edited book (See p. 27, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Charters, Ann. "Beat Poetry and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance." <i>The Columbia History of American Poetry</i> , edited by Jay Parini and Brett C. Millier, Columbia UP, 1993, pp. 581-604.	(Charters 589)
Poem, short story, or other work In an anthology (See p. 27 and sec. 3.3.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Vaughan, Henry. "I Walked the Other Day (To Spend My Hour)." 1655. <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> , edited by M.H. Abrams, 6th ed., vol. 1, Norton, 1993, pp. 1409-10. NOTE: You may include the date of original publication of the work. This date goes directly after the title, as in the above example (see p. 50, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	First citation (for a poem): (Vaughan lines 15-20) Subsequent citations: (Vaughan 17) NOTE: For works of prose, use page numbers instead of line numbers.
Journal article Print only (See pp. 30 and 39-40, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Kazemipur, Abdolmohammad, and Shiva Halli. "The Invisible Barrier: Neighbourhood Poverty and Integration of Immigrants in Canada." <i>Journal of International Migration and Integration</i> , vol. 1, no. 1, 2000, pp. 85-100.	(Kazemipur and Halli 92)
Journal article From a library database, with DOI (See p. 48 and sec. 2.5.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Hutchings, Kevin. "Cultural Genocide and the First Nations of Upper Canada: Some Romantic-era Roots of Canada's Residential School System." <i>European Romantic Review</i> , vol. 27, no. 3, 2016, pp. 301-08. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> , doi:10.1080/10509585.2016.1163787.	(Hutchings 303)
Journal article From a library database, with no DOI (See p. 48 and sec. 2.5.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Bloom, Gordon A., and Michael D. Smith. "Hockey Violence: A Test of Cultural Spillover Theory." <i>Sociology of Sport Journal</i> , vol. 13, no. 1, 1996, pp. 65-77. <i>SPORTDiscus</i> , search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=s3h&AN=10035816&site=ehost-live&scope=site . NOTE: If an article does not have a DOI, provide a stable URL, if available (see p. 48, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Bloom and Smith 68)

Source	Works Cited entry	In-text citation
Journal article From a journal published only on the Web, with no DOI (See p. 48 and sec. 2.5.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Taber, Nancy. "Detectives and Bail Bonds 'Persons' as Fairy Tale Hero/ines: A Feminist Antimilitarist Analysis of <i>Grimm</i> and <i>Once Upon a Time</i> ." <i>Gender Forum</i> , no. 44, 2013, www.genderforum.org/index.php?id=731 . NOTE: If an article does not have a DOI, provide a stable URL, if available (see p. 48, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Taber) Page numbers not available.
Article within conference proceedings Ebook (See <i>MLA Style Center</i>)	Christopher, Kameron R., et al. "Toward Ambient Intelligent Systems for Improving Levels of Creativity in Arts Learning Environments." <i>Workshop Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Intelligent Environments</i> , edited by Juan C. Augusto and Tongzhen Zhang, vol. 18, IOS Press, 2014, pp. 60-65. <i>eBook Academic Collection</i> , doi:10.3233/978-1-61499-411-4-60.	(Christopher et al. 61)
Magazine article Print (See p. 46, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Branswell, Brenda, and Peter Kopvillem. "Storm Warnings: Language Divides Even the Separatists." <i>Macleans</i> , 25 Nov. 1996, pp. 78-79.	(Branswell and Kopvillem 78)
Magazine article From the Web, with no page numbers (See pp. 43, and 48, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Epstein, Joseph. "How I Learned to Love the Draft." <i>The Atlantic</i> , Jan.-Feb. 2015, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/how-i-learned-to-love-the-draft/383500/ .	(Epstein) Page numbers not available.
Newspaper article Print (See p. 30 and sec. 3.3.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Picard, Andre. "Top Court Upholds Province's Tobacco Display Law." <i>The Globe and Mail</i> , 20 Jan. 2005, p. A11.	(Picard A11)
Newspaper article From a library database (See pp. 30 and 48, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Cowan, Pamela. "Store Owner Displays Message to Government." <i>Leader Post</i> [Regina], final edition, 25 Jan. 2005, p. B4. <i>Canadian Newsstand</i> , search.proquest.com/docview/349800287?accountid=14474 . NOTE: If a local newspaper does not include a city name in its title, provide the city in square brackets (see sec. 2.6.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Cowan B4)
Reference book entry Print, with no author (See pp. 24 and 27, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	"Feudalism." <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , 11th ed., Merriam-Webster, 2003, p. 463. NOTE: Reference book entries are treated like chapters, articles, or essays in books (see MLA Style Center).	("Feudalism" 463)
Reference book entry Print, with author (See p. 27, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Bowman, Durrell. "Festival of the Sound." <i>Encyclopedia of Music in Canada</i> , edited by Helmut Kallman et al., 2nd ed., U of Toronto P, 1992, pp. 448-49. NOTE: Reference book entries are treated like chapters, articles, or essays in books (see MLA Style Center).	(Bowman 448)
Reference book entry Online, with no page numbers, with a DOI (See pp. 27, 48, and sec. 2.5.2, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Annas, Julia. "Plato." <i>The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization</i> , edited by Simon Hornblower et al., 2nd ed., Oxford UP, 2014. <i>Oxford Reference</i> , doi:10.1093/acref/9780198706779.001.0001. NOTE: Reference book entries are treated like chapters, articles, or essays in books (see MLA Style Center).	(Annas) Page numbers not available.
Canadian Statute (See pp. 48, 53, and sec. 2.1.3, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Criminal Code. RSC 1985, c. C-46, Government of Canada, 24 May 2016, laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/fulltext.html .	(Criminal Code sec. 745) NOTE: Section numbers are used instead of page numbers.

Source	Works Cited entry	In-text citation
Film (See pp. 24, 37, 41, sec. 1.2.5, sec. 2.2.2 and sec. 3.2.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	<i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> . Written by Laura Esquivel, directed by Alphonso Arau, performance by Lumi Cavazos et al., Miramax, 1993.	(Like Water 00:06:10-21) NOTE: Cite the relevant time or range (see p. 57, <i>MLA Handbook</i>). For shortening titles in parenthetical citations, see sec. 3.2.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i> .
Sound Recording Entire album CD or LP (See p. 37, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Stravinsky, Igor. <i>The Essential Stravinsky</i> . Performance by Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Neeme Järvi, Chandos, 2002.	(Stravinsky)
Sound Recording Specific song or track. CD or LP (See p. 37, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	The Beatles. "A Day in the Life." <i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i> , composed by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Parlophone, 1967.	(Beatles 00:02:02-07) NOTE: Cite the relevant time or range (see p. 57, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).
Sound Recording Specific song or track, Streamed online (See p. 37, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra and Ondrej Lenárd. "Waltz of the Flowers." Composed by Tchaikovsky. <i>Cinema Classics</i> , vol. 7, Naxos, 1994. <i>Naxos Music Library</i> , naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=8.556627 .	(Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra and Lenárd 00:01:08) NOTE: Cite the relevant time or range (see p. 57, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).
Score (See pp. 50 and 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. <i>The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte): In Full Score</i> . 1791. Dover, 1985. Score. NOTE: For an "unexpected type of work," end your citation with a descriptive term of the type (see p. 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Mozart 93)
Performance E.g. play or concert (See pp. 37 and 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Shakespeare's Will. Written by Vern Thiessen, directed by Geoffrey Brumlik, performance by Jan Alexandra Smith, 2 Feb. 2005, Citadel Theatre, Edmonton. Performance. NOTE: For an "unexpected type of work," end your citation with a descriptive term of the type (see p. 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Shakespeare's Will) Page numbers not available.
Presentation, speech, lecture, or reading (See p. 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Turner, Chris. "Sustainable Living and Sustainable Eating in the World We Need." From Field to Fork to Findings: A Multidisciplinary Conference, 29 Jan. 2009, U of Alberta Augustana Campus, Camrose. Keynote speech. NOTE: For an "unexpected type of work," end your citation with a descriptive term of the type (see p. 52, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(Turner) Page numbers not available.
Unpublished Interview Or personal communications. (See pp. 28-29, and 37-38 <i>MLA Handbook</i> , and <i>MLA Style Center</i>)	Smith, Sarah. Interview. By John Doe. 27 Jan. 2014.	(Smith) Page numbers not available.
Entire website Include as many citation elements as possible, and include an access date (see pp. 48 and 53, <i>MLA Handbook</i>). NOTE: If the website title and publisher are the same, you may omit the publisher. (See p. 42, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Known date <i>Shakespeare Lives</i> . British Council, 2016, www.shakespearelives.org . Accessed 18 Apr. 2017.	(Shakespeare Lives) Page numbers not available.
	Unknown date <i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i> . Created by Jeremy Hylton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, shakespeare.mit.edu . Accessed 4 Apr. 2016.	(Complete Works) Page numbers not available. NOTE: For shortening titles in parenthetical citations, see sec. 3.2.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i> .

Source	Works Cited entry	In-text citation
Single page on website Include as many citation elements as possible, and include an access date. (See pp. 48 and 53, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Unknown author "Charlie Chaplin." <i>History</i> , AETN UK, 14 Jan. 2013, www.history.co.uk/biographies/charlie-chaplin . Accessed 6 Feb. 2015.	("Charlie Chaplin") Page numbers not available.
	Known author, unknown date Rose, Emily. "Female Immigrants Face Gender Barriers in Careers." <i>Canadian Immigrant</i> , Metroland Media Group, canadianimmigrant.ca/slider/female-immigrants-face-gender-barriers-in-careers . Accessed 22 Mar. 2016.	(Rose) Page numbers not available.
Online video (See p. 44, <i>MLA Handbook</i>) NOTE: If the website title and publisher are the same, you may omit the publisher. (See p. 42, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	Unknown "author" "Chopin – Nocturne Op.9 No.2." <i>YouTube</i> , uploaded by Andrea Romano, 19 June 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E6b3swbnWg .	("Chopin" 00:03:21-37) NOTE: Cite the relevant time or range (see p. 57, <i>MLA Handbook</i>). For shortening titles in parenthetical citations, see sec. 3.2.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i> .
	Known "author" Brown, Brené. "The Power of Vulnerability." <i>TED</i> , TED Conferences, June 2010, www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability .	(Brown 00:18:25-19:30) NOTE: Cite the relevant time or range (see p. 57, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).
Social media post (See pp. 24 and 29, <i>MLA Handbook</i>)	@POTUS (Barack Obama). "Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins." <i>Twitter</i> , 26 June 2015, 8:10 a.m., twitter.com/POTUS/status/614435467120001024 . NOTE: If a post is published under a username, provide the author name in parentheses, if known (see sec 2.1.1, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).	(@POTUS) Page numbers not available.
Work of art (see p. 27 and 49, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , and <i>MLA Style Center</i>) NOTE: To caption a work of art, see the Illustration example on the next page.	Reproduced on a website Manet, Édouard. <i>Jeanne (Spring)</i> . 1881. <i>The J. Paul Getty Museum</i> , http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/268843/edouard-manet-jeanne-spring-french-1881/ . Oil on canvas, 74 x 51.5 cm.	(Manet) Page numbers not available.
	Reproduced in a book Virtue, John. <i>Landscape No. 67</i> . 1987. <i>The Art of Drawing: British Masters and Methods Since 1600</i> , by Susan Owens, V&A Publishing, 2013, p. 180, plate 144. Pen and ink, graphite, charcoal, shellac and white gouache, 173 x 154 cm.	(Virtue 180)
	Reproduced in a journal or magazine (not part of an article) Fiada, Faron. <i>Three Girls by the Sea</i> . <i>New American Paintings</i> , no. 143, vol. 24, no. 4, Aug./Sept. 2019, p. 52. Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in.	(Fiada 52)
	Reproduced in a journal or magazine article Korman, Ira. <i>Redemption</i> . 2009. "Take a Tonal Approach to Drawing Portraits," by Bob Bahr. <i>American Artist Drawing</i> , Summer 2010, p. 76. Charcoal, 15.25 x 12.5 in.	(Korman 76)
	Viewed at a museum Monks, Alyssa. <i>Unfold</i> . 2018, Forum Gallery, New York. Oil on linen, 66 x 56 in.	(Monks) Page numbers not available.
Exhibition Notice In a journal or magazine (see <i>MLA Style Center</i>) NOTE: To caption an exhibition notice, see the Illustration example on the next page.	Advertisement for CAPSID Installation by John Walter. <i>Art Monthly</i> , no. 421, Nov. 2018, p. 11. NOTE: Provide a description of the advertisement in place of a title.	(Advertisement 11) NOTE: Provide the description, or a shortened version of it, in place of an author's name (see pp. 118-119, <i>MLA Handbook</i>).

Sample Illustration with Caption

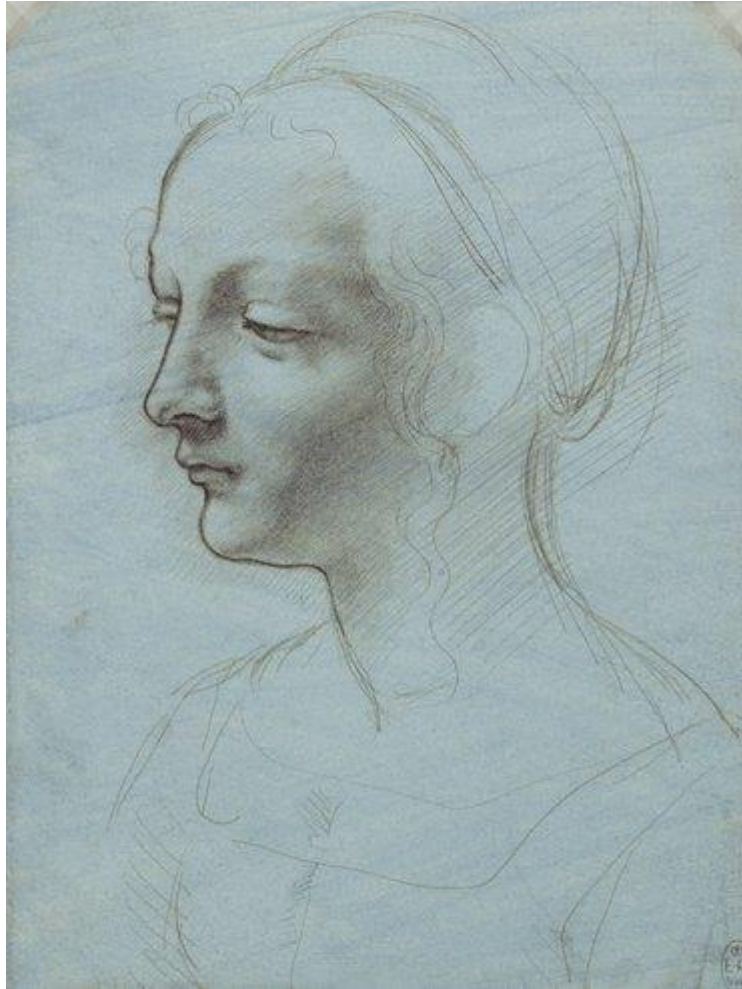


Fig. 1. Leonardo da Vinci, *The Head and Shoulders of a Woman, Almost in Profile*, circa 1485-90, *Wikimedia Commons*, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_Vinci._The_head_and_shoulders_of_a_woman.jpg, metalpoint on pale blue prepared paper, 16.5 x 12.4 cm.

NOTE: Include the same citation components as you would in a Works Cited list entry. If you include full citation details in the caption and do not cite the source in your text, you do not need to include a Works Cited list entry for the illustration. If you do cite the source in your text, you should include a works cited list entry. For more information about illustrations, see the [MLA Style Center](#).

Sample List of Works Cited

Works Cited

- Alfar, Cristina L. *Fantasies of Female Evil: The Dynamics of Gender and Power in Shakespearean Tragedy*. U of Delaware P, 2003.
- Bowman, Durrell. "Festival of the Sound." *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*, edited by Helmut Kallman et al., 2nd ed., U of Toronto P, 1992, pp. 448-49.
- "Charlie Chaplin." *History*, AETN UK, 14 Jan. 2013, www.history.co.uk/biographies/charlie-chaplin. Accessed 6 Feb. 2015.
- Charters, Ann. "Beat Poetry and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance." *The Columbia History of American Poetry*, edited by Jay Parini and Brett C. Millier. Columbia UP, 1993, pp. 581-604.
- "Chopin – Nocturne Op.9 No.2." *YouTube*, uploaded by Andrea Romano, 19 June 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E6b3swbnWg.
- The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. Created by Jeremy Hylton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, shakespeare.mit.edu. Accessed 4 Apr. 2016.
- Cowan, Pamela. "Store Owner Displays Message to Government." *Leader Post* [Regina], final edition, 25 Jan. 2005, p. B4. *Canadian Newsstand*, search.proquest.com/docview/349800287?accountid=14474.
- Epstein, Joseph. "How I Learned to Love the Draft." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/how-i-learned-to-love-the-draft/383500/.
- Kazempur, Abdolmohammad, and Shiva Halli. "The Invisible Barrier: Neighbourhood Poverty and Integration of Immigrants in Canada." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2000, pp. 85-100.
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte): In Full Score*. 1791. Dover, 1985. Score.
- @POTUS (Barack Obama). "Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins." *Twitter*, 26 June 2015, 8:10 a.m., twitter.com/POTUS/status/614435467120001024.
- Slawenski, Kenneth. *J.D. Salinger: A Life*. EPUB, Random, 2011.
- Stravinsky, Igor. *The Essential Stravinsky*. Performance by Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Neeme Järvi, Chandos, 2002.
- Taber, Nancy. "Detectives and Bail Bonds 'Persons' as Fairy Tale Hero/ines: A Feminist Antimilitarist Analysis of *Grimm* and *Once Upon a Time*." *Gender Forum*, no. 44, 2013, www.genderforum.org/index.php?id=731.

Anatomy of a Citation

This example describes the elements of a citation. It is based on a journal article found online using one of the library's databases.

