

## MLA System 2016 Changes

By Dr. Karen Petit

### Long Quotation Format

Long quotations (more than four lines) should be indented for only a half an inch.

### Works Cited Pages

- Works Cited entries should list author(s), title, and information in one or more containers. Inside each container should be appropriate core elements: title of container, contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, and location.
- The medium (such as “print” or “web”) should no longer be included, unless the source is not the kind that most readers would expect.
- URL’s or DOI’s should be included, but the following letters and symbols should be omitted: *http://, https://, and <>*.
- Some changes in punctuation for Works Cited entries are listed here:
  - A period follows an author’s name (or multiple authors’ names).
  - A period is placed after the title.
  - Commas separate the different items in the same container.
  - A period is used for the last item in a container.
- Information should be included about different versions of works, such as editions.
- Placeholders (such as “n.d.”) are no longer inserted into a citation.

### Optional Items

- Access dates now are optional, but sometimes should still be included. If an online work might be updated or deleted, then an access date is needed. Also, if there’s no publication date, then the word “Accessed” (followed by an access date) should be listed at the end of a Works Cited entry.
- Current and prior publication information can be included for a source that has been published more than once in different forms.
- The city of publication is now usually unnecessary. However, it should still be included if readers will need the information to help them find the text.

### Changes in Abbreviations for In-text Citations and/or Works Cited pages

- Works Cited pages should use “p.” or “pp.” to indicate a page number or numbers.  
Note: When an in-text citation has a page number(s), “p” and “pp” are not placed in front of the page number in the citation, but are rather only used as a part of the Works Cited entry.
- When a source has three or more authors, only the first author’s name is included. The abbreviation “et al.” is then inserted to indicate at least two other authors.
- “Editor” now needs to be spelled out, rather than being abbreviated.
- “ed.” should only be used to refer to the edition of a work.
- “UP” means “University Press.”

More information about the 2016 changes in the MLA System can be found at:

The MLA’s website: [www.mla.org/MLA-Style/What-s-New-in-the-Eighth-Edition](http://www.mla.org/MLA-Style/What-s-New-in-the-Eighth-Edition)