MLA STYLE QUICK GUIDE TO CITING BOOKS

This guide is based on the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown. Citations must be double-spaced with a “hanging indent” (all lines of the citation except the first are indented over 0.5 inches).

General Format and Punctuation for Citing Books:

1. Author or editor Last name, First name Middle name [followed by a period]
   - If there are multiple authors, only reverse the first author name: Bay, Joe T., and Sara Lee Green.
   - Follow an editor name entry with a comma and ed. or eds.: Brown, Meg, and John Adams, eds.
   - For 4 or more authors, name only the first author followed by et al.: Chen, Mei L., et al.
   - List names in the order they appear on the book. Include middle names and initials if given.
   - Do not include professional titles, such as MD or PhD.

2. Title of the book [in italics and followed by a period]
   - Capitalize all important words (and the first word) in both titles and subtitles.
   - Always include the subtitle after a colon. For example, Fire in the Sky: A Memoir.

3. Edition, if applicable [followed by a period]

4. City of publication [followed by a colon]
   - Never include the state or country. Only include one city - the one that is listed first on the book.

5. Abbreviated name of publisher [followed by a comma]
   - Delete business abbreviations (Co., Inc.) and descriptive words (Books, House, Press, Publishers).
   - If citing a University Press, use the abbreviation UP. For example, Yale University Press would be Yale UP and University of California Press would be U of California P.
   - If the publisher's name is the name of a person (John Wiley), cite only the last name (Wiley).
   - For 2 or more names (Simon and Schuster, McGraw-Hill), use only the first name (Simon, McGraw).

6. Most recent year of publication [followed by a period]

7. For an E-book: Name of the book database [in italics and followed by a period]

8. Medium [followed by a period] (will be either Print or Web).

9. For an E-book: Date you accessed the book online [followed by a period]
   - Abbreviate all months except May, June, July. Format as Day Month Year: 9 July 2013, 6 Aug. 2013.

Examples:

Book with one author:

   - In-text citation: “Quote from page 22 the book” (Davidson 22).

Book with 2-3 authors:

   - In-text citation: “Quote from page 37 the book” (Weygandt, Kimmel, and Kieso 37).
Ebook from the West Valley Library (eBook Collection or ebrary):

- In text citation: “Quote from page 55 the book” (Butler 55).


- In text citation: Summarizing author argument on pages 123-124 (Deater-Deckard 123-24).

An Edited Book:

- Print.

- In-text citation: “Quote from page 347 the book” (Briscoe 347).

Multiple Editors:

- In-text citation: “Quote from pages 111-112 the book” (Scott and Branch 111-12).

Book with 4 or more authors:

- In-text citation: “Quote from page 10 the book” (Howell et al. 10).

A Chapter in an Anthology or Edited book (i.e. one chapter in an Opposing Viewpoints book):

- In-text citation: “Quote from page 17 the book” (Bamberger and Yaeger 17).

More MLA Style Resources:
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. (available at any library)
Diana Hacker MLA Guide: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html
Diana Hacker In-Text Citation Guide: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html
Purdue Online Writing Laboratory MLA Guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/