

# MLA STYLE

## How to Format an Author's Name, Title, Publication Date & Publisher's Name

### AUTHOR'S NAME

- Begin your citation with the author's last name, followed by a comma, and the rest of the name.

**Examples:**

Bush, George W.  
Cather, Willa  
Rowling, J. K.

- Ignore **titles, affiliations, and degrees** (King, Queen, Dr., PhD, and Sir).

**Example:**

*Name in source:*

Dr. John A. Smith

*Name in citation:*

Smith, John A.

- Include **suffixes** that are an essential part of the author's name (Jr., Sr., and IV).

**Examples:**

*Name in source:*

Stanley J. Dawson IV

Bruce Jackson, Jr.

*Name in citation:*

Dawson, Stanley J., IV

Jackson, Bruce, Jr.

- **Two authors:** Include them in the order in which they appear in the source. Begin the **first** author's name with the last name. Separate the two names with a comma and the word **and**.

**Example:**

Downward, Paul, and Alistair Dawson. *The Economics of Professional Sports Teams*.  
Routledge, 2000.

- **Three or more authors:** List only the first author's name and follow it with a comma and *et al.* (Latin for "and others").

**Example:**

Tan, Siu-Lan, et al. *Psychology of Music: From Sound to Significance*. Psychology Press, 2010.

- **Editor** rather than an author. If the book has an editor but not an author, provide the editor's name followed by *editor*.

**Example:**

Zlotnick, Cheryl, editor. *Children Living in Transition: Helping Homeless and Foster Care Children and Families*. Columbia UP, 2014.

- **No author or editor:** If there is no author or editor, begin your citation with the title.

**Example:**

*Aging in America*. H. W. Wilson, 2014.

## TITLE

- Capitalize the first and last words in the title, the first word in the subtitle, and all principal words (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and subordinating conjunctions).
- Do not capitalize the following when they fall in the middle of a title:
  - Articles (*a, an, the*)
  - Prepositions (*against, as, between, in, of, to*)
  - Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, for, or, yet*)
  - The *to* in infinitives (as in "How to Change a Tire")

**Examples:**

*Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Handbook for Diagnosis and Treatment*

## PUBLISHER'S NAME

- Omit *The* if it is the first word.
- Omit business abbreviations (*Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd.*)
- Abbreviate University (U) and Press (P)

## PUBLICATION DATE

- Write the full date provided in the source.
- If providing the day, month, and year use the Day-Month-Year format.

**Example:** 28 June 2019

- Abbreviate months longer than four letters (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).

### **Examples:**

2019 [source only provides year]

June 2018

Spring 2017

Mar. – Apr. 2019

18 Aug. 2019