

MLA 7 & 8 Comparison

Medium	Edition	In-Text	Works Cited	Differences	Emphasis
Print	7	According to Alan Jacobs, "...." (78).	Jacobs, Alan. <i>The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction</i> . Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011. (Print).	1. City of publication 2. Identification of medium	Format for each type of medium
	8	According to Alan Jacobs, "...." (78).	Jacobs, Alan. <i>The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction</i> . Oxford UP, 2011.	No city or medium noted	Principles of documentation
Journal Article	7		Kinkaid, Jamaica. "In History." <i>Callaloo</i> 24.2 (Spring 2001): 620-26. Web.	No identification of numbers Date in parentheses	
	8		Kincaid, Jamaica. "In History." <i>Callaloo</i> , vol. 24, no. 2, Spring 2001, pp. 620-26.	Numbers identified No parentheses Simpler punctuation	

Adapted from owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/22/

General Guidelines

1. Think of MLA style principles as flexible guides, rather than rules. Part of your responsibility as a writer is to evaluate your readers and decide what your particular audience needs to know about your sources.
2. Your goal is to inform, persuade, and otherwise connect with your audience; error-free writing, along with trustworthy documentation, allows readers to focus on your ideas.
3. In-text citations should look consistent throughout your paper. The principles behind in-text citations have changed very little from the seventh to the eighth editions.
4. List of works cited/works consulted needs to include basic core information, such as author's name, title of source, publication date, and other information, depending on the type of source. Each entry should be uniform and simple, but should give enough information so that your readers can locate your sources.
5. These updated MLA guidelines are based on a simple theory: once you know the basic principles of style and citation, you can apply that knowledge widely, and generate useful documentation for any type of publication, in any field.