

# MLA In-Text Citations for Media Sources (8<sup>th</sup> edition)

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**Citing and Citation:** To “cite” a source is to tell where you found the information you are borrowing, such as details from a television program, motion picture, DVD, CD, song, or online video. A **citation** is the collection of details about where you found your information. The details of a media source citation include **1) a signal phrase, 2) an action verb, and 3) a parenthetical citation.**

1. **Signal Phrase:** A signal phrase is a formal way you alert your reader to the source of your borrowed information. The signal phrase is also an opportunity to give credibility to your source, by providing details such as the source’s title, additional performers or artistic contributors, or any other details that would show your source’s expertise. Here are two common details to include in a signal phrase for a media source:

- **The name of the source itself** such as the television program, motion picture, DVD, CD, song, or online video itself. If you are citing the entire work (the name of a television series, movie, DVD, CD, or entire video online), you put that title *in italics*.

If you are citing a small segment of a larger work (a specific episode of a television series, a specific song off of a CD), you enclose that title “in quotation marks.”

- **The names of anyone involved in the source necessary to understand the context of the source** such as the name of the director, artist, author, choreographer, actor, singer, performer, and/or character. You have to think about what **part** of the source you are discussing and provide those details that help your reader follow along.

2. **An action verb** such as writes, illustrates, demonstrates, shows, argues, claims, demonstrates. Another option is to begin your signal phrase with **According to...**

3. **A parenthetical citation:** A parenthetical citation gives information that is not included in the signal phrase such as a time stamp for a media source. If it exists, provide the **time or range of times** such as the hours/minutes/seconds as displayed on your computer or media player. Separate these numbers with colons, such as hour:minute:second (00:17:15 – 00:18:42). If no time stamp exists, omit this step.

## Now Let’s Look at Some Examples

### Example One – Movie on a DVD or from a Movie Service (Hulu, Netflix, HBO, Showtime)

**First time you cite movie:** In *Mean Girls*, screenwriter Tina Fey uses the character of Cady Heron to demonstrate the challenges faced by the stereotypical “new kid,” when Heron, a new student who has been home schooled her whole life, states, \_\_\_\_\_ (00:32:14 – 00:36:38).

**Each additional time you cite movie:** Fey also illustrates Heron’s somewhat naïve cluelessness when Heron comments \_\_\_\_\_ (00:46:17 – 00:47:36).

**Example Two – TV Show on DVD or from Television Service (Hulu, Netflix, HBO, Showtime)**

**First time you cite television show:** In *The Mindy Project's* "We Need to Talk about Annette," writer Mindy Kaling illustrates that the relationship between a man's mother and his new girlfriend can be extremely shaky when character Mindy Lahiri states, \_\_\_\_\_ (00:21:14 – 00:23:45).

**Each additional time you cite television show:** Kaling also draws attention to the roles and responsibilities of the boyfriend in bringing home a new girlfriend when character Danny Castellano asserts \_\_\_\_\_ (00:17:34 – 00:18:58).

**Example Three - DVD Commentary**

**First time you cite DVD commentary:** In the DVD commentary for the "Blackwater" episode of *Game of Thrones*, director Neil Marshall discusses the logistical challenges of recreating the wildfire scenes, stating \_\_\_\_\_ (00:14:45 – 00:18:22).

**Each additional time you cite DVD commentary:** Marshall later illustrates how to build tension in a scene when he claims \_\_\_\_\_ (00:28:16 – 00:31:54).

**Example Four – Song off of a CD**

**First time you cite song:** In the song "Eleanor Rigby" by the Beatles, Paul McCartney sings about the physical ache of loneliness, claiming \_\_\_\_\_ (00:2:23 – 00:2:36).

**Each additional time you cite song:** McCartney also laments \_\_\_\_\_ (00:03:11 – 00:3:25).

**Example Five – Online Video (YouTube, Yahoo, Tumblr, Reddit)**

**First time you cite online video:** In "*Game of Thrones* S6E09 Explained," creator Alt Shift X discusses the clues offered by the program that Jon Snow might actually come from royalty, stating \_\_\_\_\_ (00:11:15 – 00:16:46).

**Each additional time you cite online video:** Alt Shift X further illustrates the uncertainty and treachery of life in Kings Landing, stating \_\_\_\_\_ (00:24:34 – 00:27:15).

*Author's Note: If you are a Game of Thrones fan, check out the Alt Shift X videos that explain the episodes. They are absolutely amazing!*

**Example Six – Podcast**

**First time you cite podcast:** In *The Bugle* podcast 232 titled, "Mars, Merchandise, and Mad Men," comedians John Oliver and Andy Zaltzman discuss the way advertising has been used to shape popular culture, commenting \_\_\_\_\_ (00:03:16 – 00:09:46).

**Each additional time you cite podcast:** Oliver and Zaltzman also argue over the proper roles of advertising and consumerism in space exploration, mentioning \_\_\_\_\_ (00:36:07 – 00:42:36).