Citing Social Media in MLA 8

The following offers guidance and examples of the most common social media types. Consult the *MLA Handbook (8th ed.)* or visit the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab website for additional types and more detailed explanations:  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/.

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**A Tweet**

A Twitter handle is used in place of the author’s name. Although not required, if you know the real name of an author listed under a screen name and feel it would be helpful to your readers, then add the author’s real name within parenthesis following the screen name. Next, place the text of the tweet in its entirety within quotations (this is the title), inserting a period after the tweet within the quotations. Include the date and time of posting, using the reader’s time zone; separate the date and time with a comma and end with a period. Including an accessed date after the URL is optional but not required.

Twitter Handle. “Text of the tweet.” *Twitter*, Tweet Date, Tweet Time, URL.

@MTSUNews. "MTSU’s experimental vehicle program’s been recognized with a national industry award." *Twitter*, 21 Mar. 2017, 9:06 a.m., twitter.com/MTSUNews/status/844229642869526528.

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**A Facebook Post**

Author(s) or Screen Name. “Text of the posting.” *Facebook*, Posting Date, Posting Time, URL.


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**A YouTube Video**

Use the same basic guidelines for citing print sources in MLA style. Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers understand the type and nature of the source you are citing. If the author’s name is the same as the uploader, then only cite the author once as the uploader. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author’s name before the title.

Author or Creator (if different from the uploader). “Title of the Video.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Identification Name, Date of Upload, URL.

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### A Comment on a Website or Article

List the screen name as the author. Use the phrase, *Comment on*, before the title placed within quotation marks. Name the publisher, date, time (listed on near the comment), and the URL.

**Author(s) Screen Name. Comment on “Title.” Publisher, Published Date, Time, URL.**


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### A Listserv, Discussion Group, or Blog Posting

Cite web postings as you would a standard web entry. Provide the author of the work, the title of the posting in quotation marks, the web site name in italics, the publisher, and the posting date. Follow with the date of access.

**Note:** Use a screen name if the author's real name is not known. If you know both the screen name and the author’s real name, then use the screen name followed by the author’s real name enclosed within brackets.

**Screen name, author, or editor/compiler (if available). “Posting Title.” Name of Site, Version number (if available), Name of institution or organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), URL. Accessed Date.**