

**APSU Writing Center**

MLA Style 9th Edition - Citing Religious Texts

**Citing Religious Texts**

**Basic Format:** *Title of Work*. Edited by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Year. Edition or Version.

**Examples**

*The Bible*. Edited and with notes by Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett, Oxford UP, 1998. Oxford World's Classics. Authorized King James Vers.

*The Qur'an*. Translated by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, Oxford UP, 2005.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Religious Text Title Chapter)
  - **Example:** (*New Jerusalem Bible* 1 Chron. 21.8)
  - **Example:** (The Qur'an Joseph 12:69)
- **Narrative Format:** Include the title of the work in the sentence; do not italicize generic references.
  - **Example:** In the *New Jerusalem Bible*, 1 Chron. 21:8 describes the king's actions.
  - **Example:** The Qur'an (Joseph 12:69) explains the moral lesson of patience.

**Notes**

- Include edition or version at the end if relevant (Example: Authorized King James Vers.)
- Do not italicize or use quotation marks for generic religious texts (e.g., Bible, Qur'an, Old Testament, Genesis, Gospels, Talmud, Upanishads).
- Italicize specific published editions only when citing them directly (e.g., The Interlinear Bible).
- Books of scripture are often abbreviated in in-text citations.

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**Citing Religious Texts (Editions)**

**Basic Format:** *Title of Work*. Edited by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Year. Edition or Version.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Religious Text Title Chapter)

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** Include the title of the work in the sentence.

**Citing Religious Texts (Translations)**

**Basic Format:** *Title of Work*. Translated by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Year. Edition or Version.

**In-Text Citations**

- **Parenthetical Format:** (Religious Text Title Chapter)

**In-Text Citations**

- **Narrative Citation Format:** Include the title of the work in the sentence.

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MLA Style 9th Edition - Religious Abbreviations

**Religious Text Abbreviations for Books of the Bible in MLA**

Here are some of the most frequently used abbreviations for in-text citations:

- Genesis 1:1 → (Gen. 1.1)
- John 3:16 → (John 3.16)
- Romans 8:28 → (Rom. 8.28)

**Below are more Abbreviations**

- **Genesis:** Gen.
- **Exodus:** Exod.
- **Leviticus:** Lev.
- **Numbers:** Num.
- **Deuteronomy:** Deut.
- **Joshua:** Josh.
- **Judges:** Judg.
- **1 Samuel:** 1 Sam.
- **1 Chronicles:** 1 Chron.
- **Nehemiah:** Neh.
- **Esther:** Esth.
- **Psalms:** Ps.
- **Proverbs:** Prov.
- **Ecclesiastes:** Eccles.
- **Song of Solomon:** Song of Sol.
- **Isaiah:** Isa.
- **Jeremiah:** Jer.
- **Lamentations:** Lam.
- **Ezekiel:** Ezek.
- **Daniel:** Dan.
- **Hosea:** Hos.
- **Obadiah:** Obad.
- **Jonah:** Jon.
- **Micah:** Mic.
- **Nahum:** Nah.
- **Habakkuk:** Hab.
- **Zephaniah:** Zeph.
- **Haggai:** Hag.
- **Zechariah:** Zech.
- **Malachi:** Mal.
- **Matthew:** Matt.
- **Romans:** Rom.
- **1 Corinthians:** 1 Cor
- **Galatians:** Gal.
- **Ephesians:** Eph.
- **Philippians:** Phil.
- **Colossians:** Col.
- **1 Thessalonians:** 1 Thess.
- **1 Timothy:** 1 Tim.
- **Titus:** Tit.
- **Philemon:** Philem.
- **Hebrews:** Heb.
- **James:** Jas.
- **1 Peter:** 1 Pet.
- **Revelation:** Rev.



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Works Cited

Columbia College, Canada. *MLA Citation Guide (9th Edition): Class Handouts, Presentations, and Readings*. <https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/MLA9/notes>.

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University of Nevada, Reno Library. *MLA Citation Guide (MLA 9th Edition): Class Notes and Presentations*. <https://guides.library.unr.edu/mlacitation/instructormaterial>.