Citing Unpublished Sources – MLA Style, 8th ed.

This model reflects the most information one might have for a resource. If some elements are missing, do not exist, or are more specific than you need (e.g., you are citing the whole collection, not one item), simply omit them. This may mean starting your citation with the Item Title, Series, or Collection Name and Number.

The model below is for unpublished items. If the item has been published, use the model for the appropriate format. If a published item is relatively rare, consider providing a footnote that explains where the item is housed, so that other researchers can find that item. Alternatively, you can tack on that information (repository, organization, location) to the end of the citation.

In-Text Citations
Use the creator (if not, use an abbreviated form of the item title or description) plus a page number if one is available. Omit the creator (or item title/description) if that information is already in the text. Use both creator and item title/description to differentiate multiple works by one creator. To differentiate creators with the same last name, use a first initial or full first name if necessary.

Examples:
...can be seen in the photograph (Ewing).
...clearly taken seriously as a tourist destination (“Pictorial History” 3).

Although he was not happy with his current situation (C. Manly, letter of January 12), later he...

Works Cited Entries
Lastname, Firstname. “Item Title”/Description of item, Item Date. Collection Title and number, Series title, Box number, Folder number/name. Repository Name, Organization Name, City, State.

Examples:

“Pictorial History of Fort Marion,” 1925. Durst Family papers MSS.0461, Box 0461-0001, Folder 3. W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.


Created by W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, December 2015; Updated 2017
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