


## How to answer the basic question “Who is the author?”

**PROBLEM:** Sometimes when you need to cite a source, it’s not clear who the author is. This is especially true for sources on the Web or other nonprint sources, which may have been created by one person and uploaded by a different person or an organization. Whom do you cite as the author in such a case? How do you determine who *is* the author?

**EXAMPLE:** The video “Surfing the Web on the Job” (see below) was uploaded to YouTube by CBSNewsOnline. Is the person or organization who uploads the video the author of the video? Not necessarily.



**Surfing the Web on The Job**  
CBSNewsOnline · 42,491 videos  
Subscribe 85,736  
Uploaded on Nov 12, 2009  
As the Internet continues to emerge as a critical facet of everyday life, CBS News' Daniel Sieberg reports that companies are cracking down on employees' personal Web use.

**STRATEGY:** After you view or listen to the source a few times, ask yourself whether you can tell who is chiefly responsible for creating the content in the source. It might be an organization. It might be an identifiable individual. This video consists entirely of reporting by Daniel Sieberg, so in this case the author is Sieberg.

**CITATION:** To cite the source, you would use the basic MLA guidelines for a video found on the Web (item 56).

author: last name first title of video Web site title sponsor update date  
Sieberg, Daniel. “Surfing the Web on the Job.” *YouTube*. YouTube, 12 Nov. 2009.  
medium date of access  
Web. 26 Nov. 2009.

If you want to include the person or organization who uploaded the video, you can add it as supplementary information at the end.

author: last name first title of video Web site title sponsor update date  
Sieberg, Daniel. “Surfing the Web on the Job.” *YouTube*. YouTube, 12 Nov. 2009.  
medium date of access supplementary information  
Web. 26 Nov. 2009. Uploaded by CBSNewsOnline.