center for writing
university of minnesota
http://writing.umn.edu
612.625.1893

Updated for the 8th Edition!

student writing support
quicktips

MLA DOCUMENTATION STYLE: WORKS CITED PAGE

Many humanities disciplines use Modern Language Association (MLA) style to cite sources. MLA-style documents include brief in-text citations in combination with a detailed listing of sources in a separate Works Cited page at the end of a document. (See quicktip on MLA in-text citations). Citations are designed to answer two questions: **how can the source be found, and who is responsible for its ideas?** The 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* dramatically revised citation guidelines to better answer these questions for increasingly complex electronic sources. **Each MLA citation will now include some or all of the following core elements, in the listed order, followed by the punctuation indicated. Citations always end with a period.**

1. Author.

Single author: Author's name (Last, First)
Two authors: First author's name (Last, First) + and + second author's name (First Last)
Three or more authors: First author's name only (Last, First) + comma + et al.
Corporate author: Full name of the corporation
No author: Begin citation with the title of the source

2. Title of source.

Title of short works (ex: article, chapter, song) are in quotation marks; titles of larger works (ex: book, movie) are in italics.

3. Title of container,

Containers are larger works in which your source can be found (chapter in a *book*, article in a *journal*, page [name, not URL] on a *website*). Titles of containers are usually in italics. (Shorter works may be in quotation marks). Some sources have no container (ex: books); some have a second container (ex: JSTOR, Netflix). See the next page for more on containers.

4. Other contributors,

Other Contributors are introduced with their role (ex: Edited by, Translated by, Performance by,) followed by their name (First Last). Some contributors must be cited (editors, directors). Other contributors are optional (ex: performers, costume directors, screenwriters) and should be included if they are relevant to your writing.

5. Version,

Version is used to indicate which version of a work was consulted (ex: King James Version, Kindle ed., 3rd ed., revised ed.)

6. Number,

Number (ex: vol. 6, no. 2; season 8, episode 5) identifies a numbered work in a serial or multivolume publication (ex: journal article, TV episode, encyclopedia volume).

7. Publisher,

Publisher identifies the person or organization that makes the source available to the public (ex: professional organization, publisher, museum). Do not repeat the publisher's name if it appears elsewhere in the citation.

8. Publication date,

Publication date may include day, month and year (ex: 25 Jan. 1998) depending on the source. Some sources have more than one date (ex: translation, rebroadcast of a TV episode). Use the date most relevant to your work.

9. Location.

Location indicates where to find cited information (ex: page numbers of a journal article, URL, DOI, or a physical location like a museum). Do not include https:// when citing a URL. Use a DOI or permalink instead of a long URL if available.

Example of a source with no container

When composing a citation, **include any elements that are available for the source, and skip elements that are not available**. **Always put a period at the end of the citation**. In this example you will notice there is no *author*, *container*, *version*, *number* or *location*. These elements can simply be omitted from the citation. Because there is no *author*, the citation begins with the title. Because there is no *location*, the *date* is followed by a period because it is at the end of the citation.

(2) (4) (7) (8)
Beowulf. Translated by Albert W. Haley, Jr., Branden Press, 1978.

1. Author.
2. **Title**.
3. Container,
4. **Contributors**,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. **Publisher**,
8. **Date**,
9. Location.

Example of a source with one container

This source has a *container*, meaning that **the source is found within another larger source**: in this case a chapter (source) within an edited volume (container). Many sources have *containers* such as articles (source) within a journal (container) or pages (source) within a website (container). Note that this source contains all of the main elements of a citation.

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)
Swift, Jonathan. "A Modest Proposal." *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Edited by Stephen Greenblatt, 8th ed., vol. 1, Norton, 2006, pp. 2462 2468.

1. **Author**.
2. **Title**.
3. **Container**,
4. **Contributors**,
5. **Version**,
6. **Number**,
7. **Publisher**,
8. **Date**,
9. **Location**.

Example of a source with more than one container

This source has a **second container**, which means that the source (article) is nested within a larger source (journal) nested within an even larger source (database). **Second containers are most common with sources accessed electronically or online**. All elements of the first container are listed followed by a period. Then all the elements available for the second container (in this case the title and the location) are included in the listed order, followed by the punctuation indicated. Put a period after noting all available information for the second container.

This citation also contains optional "***additional information***," which always follows the period at the end of the main citation. MLA encourages including the accessed date for any electronic sources as *additional information*.

(1) (2) (3) (6) (8) (9)
Wong-Staal, Flossie, et al. "Targeting HCV Entry for Development of Therapeutics." *Viruses*, vol. 2, no. 8, 18 Aug. 2010, pp. 1718-1733. (*2)
PubMed Central, doi:10.3390/v2081718. Accessed 14 Jan. 2017.
(*9)

*Additional Information

1. **Author**.
2. **Title**.
3. **Container**,
4. Contributors,
5. Version,
6. **Number**,
7. Publisher,
8. **Date**,
9. **Location**.

* **2nd Container**.

* **Additional information.**