



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.**

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

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

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.

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.

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

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).

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.

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.

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.

1. Author.

2. Title of source.

3. Title of container,

4. Other contributors,

5. Version,

6. Number,

7. Publisher,

8. Publication date,

9. Location.

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.

1. ~~Author.~~
 2. **Title.**
 3. ~~Container,~~
 4. **Contributors,**
 5. ~~Version,~~
 6. ~~Number,~~
 7. **Publisher,**
 8. **Date,**
 9. ~~Location.~~
- Beowulf. Translated by Albert W. Haley, Jr., Branden Press, 1978.

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. **Author.**
 2. **Title.**
 3. **Container,**
 4. **Contributors,**
 5. **Version,**
 6. **Number,**
 7. **Publisher,**
 8. **Date,**
 9. **Location.**
- Swift, Jonathan. "A Modest Proposal." *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Edited by Stephen Greenblatt, 8th ed., vol. 1, Norton, 2006, pp. 2462-2468.

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. **Author.**
 2. **Title.**
 3. **Container,**
 4. ~~Contributors,~~
 5. ~~Version,~~
 6. **Number,**
 7. ~~Publisher,~~
 8. **Date,**
 9. **Location.**
- Wong-Staal, Flossie, et al. "Targeting HCV Entry for Development of Therapeutics." *Viruses*, vol. 2, no. 8, 18 Aug. 2010, pp. 1718-1733. *PubMed Central*, doi:10.3390/v2081718. Accessed 14 Jan. 2017.
- * **2nd Container.**
- * **Additional information.**