The Writing Center
MLA 9th Edition Made Easy

There are a few new changes in the 9th Edition MLA handbook. The entire structure of a Works Cited entry has changed. Previously, MLA required a specific pattern for a specific source. Now, everything is based on the exact same criteria—the student writing the Works Cited entry must observe, think, and decide what information to include based on this criteria. This makes the Works Cited much more open to interpretation regarding including and excluding relevant information.

When using sources, MLA suggests the following list of questions be answered:

1. Who is the author?
2. What is the title of the source?
3. How was the source published?
4. Where did you find the source?
5. When was the source published?

Essentially, if the information is relevant and known, it should be included. If the information is not relevant or unknown, leave it out (this removes the need for N.p. N.d.).

1. Author.

* The author is the person or persons that wrote the source you are using. This is your top priority when using MLA. In a Works Cited, you write the person's name as:

    Last, First Middle.

* When you have 2 authors, write their names like this:

    Last, First Middle, and First Middle Last.

* If you have three or more authors, write their names like this (where et al basically means "and everyone else")

    Last, First, et al.

* If your book is assembled by an editor, such as a college anthology, write the information like this:

    Last, First, editor.

* Leave off earned titles, such as Dr. or MD. If the person has a suffix, such as Jr. or III, include that at the end.
* The author of a source ends with a period.

2. Title of source.

* The title of the source is cited next. This is the name of the source you are using in your paper. Titles are written in italics or in quotes. As a reminder, here is the list of sources and how they appear:

    Books, Movies, Newspapers, Magazines, Journals, and Website Names go in italics.
    "Essays, print articles, web articles, poems, and short stories go in quotes."

* When you encounter a title that uses all caps or all lower case letters, convert titles to normal titles regardless of how they look in the source.
* Subtitles are included by using a colon, such as *Title: Subtitle*.
* When a source is untitled, create a generic description, but do not italicize it or put it in quotes. This would occur when you see something in the world around you, such as an event or an ad.

*The title of a source ends with a period.

3. Title of Container,
* Containers are the larger parts of a whole, or sources that hold/contain other sources. Websites are containers. Anthologies (a book that contains works by other people) are containers. Newspapers and magazines are containers. A television show is a container. These are containers because they are the large work containing the smaller work.
* Title of containers are italicized.
* If this does not apply to your source, leave it out.
* The title of the container ends with a comma.

4. Other Contributors,
* This includes those that adapt work, direct work, edit work, translate work, or illustrate work. If your source needs these additional contributors, include them; however, if there are none, leave this out of your citation.
* The other contributors ends with a comma.

5. Version,
* This is also known as the edition, which books use. When using an edition, abbreviate it as "ed." For example, you would write:
Knowing the Score: A Guide to Writing College Essays. 3rd ed.
* For journals and magazines, the version might be called a Volume. When using a volume, abbreviate it as vol.
*The version ends with a comma.

6. Number,
* This is the specific number in a sequence. For example, a scholarly journal that is published four times a year has a Volume and an Issue number. Comic books also have numbers. When using a number, abbreviate it as no. For example, a scholarly journal that has a volume and a number would look like this:
"vol. 23, no. 2,"
* The number ends with a comma.

7. Publisher,
*This is the group or company responsible for releasing the material. Publishers do not always create the source, but they are responsible for releasing it to the public. Publishers create books, movies, TV Shows, and websites.
* A publisher can be omitted for journals, newspapers, and magazines. It can also be omitted for authors who self-publish their own material. It can also be omitted when a website name is identical to the publisher. Finally, do not include the publisher on a website whose content is created by others, such as college databases or *YouTube*.
* Today, many publications are owned by larger corporations. This is especially true for print sources. If a company is listed, followed by another company, such as a division or a group, use the division or the primary group listed first.
* The name of the publisher ends with a comma.

8. Publication Date,
* Books have publication dates, usually written as a single year. Other works, such as articles found in magazines, books, and websites have a specific date. These count as publication dates as well. Use the specific date the article was uploaded or modified.
* When there is more than one publication date, pick the most recent. Or, pick the copyright date attached to the publishing company used in the previous criteria.
* Dates are written as Day Month Year, such as:
    11 Apr. 2016,
    5 May 2015,
    25 Dec. 2000,
* The publication date ends with a comma.

9. Location.
* This refers to the pages where the source is located, and is typically used for essays found in anthologies, magazines, newspapers, and scholarly journals. Do not use pages in a Works Cited for a normal book.
* If it is one page, use "p." If it is multiple pages, use "pp." The pages correspond to where the source starts and ends.
    - For example, you might write: pp. 5-10 (This means the source starts on page 5 and ends on page 10.)
    - If the source is only on one page, you write: p. 42

If the source is in a newspaper, which often skips pages throughout a section, use the "+" to indicate non-consecutive pages. For example:
    pp. A1+

Optional Elements

Date of original publication.
If a source has been published on more than one date, the writer may want to include both days if it will provide the reader with necessary or helpful information.

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*. 1868. Penguin Classics, 1989.

City of publication,
The seventh edition handbook required the city in which a publisher is located, but the eighth edition states that this is only necessary in particular instances, such as in a work published before 1900 since these works were usually associated with the city in which they were published.

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. London, 1847.

Date of Access.
* Website articles often come with publishing dates, which includes the date it was modified, uploaded, or submitted. However, if this information is missing, it is important to include the access date. In order to maintain the integrity of your work, you want to include the date of access after the website. Use this access date only if there is no other date for the online source. It is written as:

Accessed 23 July 2016.

*The date of access ends with a period.

URLs: MLA recommends including URLs when you cite online sources, but you should always check with your instructor or editor and include URLs at their discretion.

DOIs: A DOI, or digital object identifier, is a series of digits and letters that leads to the location of an online source. Articles in journals are often assigned DOIs to ensure that the source is locatable, even if the URL changes. If your source is listed with a DOI, use that instead of a URL.

McLaughlin, Kaitlyn, and Shelley N. Aikman. "That Is What a Feminist Looks Like:

Identification and Exploration of the Factors Underlying the Concept of Feminism and

Predicting the Endorsement of Traditional Gender Roles." *Gender Issues*, vol. 37, no. 2,

June 2020, pp. 91–124. *EBSCOhost*, doi.org/10.1007/s12147-019-09240-4.

This information will help create a Works Cited entry for your source. Remember, you need to think, select, and organize your information based on what you have and what you need to show your reader.
The new MLA handbook does not organize entries into categories, but the patterns below will still prove helpful. Consider them models for citation. However, some of them are created based on the patterns discussed above, and there may be more than one way to cite these sources based on how you use the source and what information you decide to show.

Books

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 16 Mar. 1998.

Morrison, Toni. *God Help the Child*. 1st ed. Alfred A. Knopf, 21 Apr. 2015.

Sanchez, Erika L. *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. Knopf Book for Young Readers,

17 Oct. 2017.

Ebooks

Page, Elliot. *Pageboy: A Memoir*. E-book, Flatiron Books, 6 Jun. 2023

Anthology

Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues." *40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology*, edited by Beverly Lawn, 5th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017, pp.175-204.

Ferguson, Margaret, et al. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 6th ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 1 Jul. 2018.

Newspapers

Flint, Joe. "Hollywood Braces for Potential Writers' Strike Spurred by Shift to Streaming; Fans of Late-Night Television could be the First to Feel the Effects if there is a Walkout." *Wall Street Journal,* Apr 30, 2023.

Magazines

Ducharme, Jamie. "How Wildfire Smoke Affects Wildlife—and Your Pets." *Time*, 7 June 2023.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time,* 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

Scholarly Journals/Articles in Print

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's *White Noise*." *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 3, 1994, pp. 127-53.

Scholarly Journals/Articles in a Database

Lin, Judith C. P. "Exposing the Chameleon-like Nature of Racism: A Multidisciplinary Look at Critical Race Theory in Higher Education." *Higher Education (00181560)*, vol. 85, no. 5, May 2023, pp. 1085–100. *EBSCOhost*, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00879-9.

Online Websites

Woodson, Jacqueline. "What Reading Slowly Taught me About Writing." *TED*, 2019.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jacqueline_woodson_what_reading_slowly_taught_me_about_writing.

YouTube: If the author's name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author's name before the title.

Headlee, Celeste. "How to Have a Good Conversation." *YouTube*, uploaded by TEDx Talks, 7 May 2015, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6n3iNh4XLI.

"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube,* uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.

Movies: List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

Moonlight. Directed by Barry Jenkins, performances by Mahershala Ali, Naomie Harris, and Trevante Rhodes, A24, 2016.

To emphasize specific performers or directors, begin the citation with the name of the desired performer or director, followed by the appropriate title for that person.

Greta, Gerwig, director. *Barbie*. Warner Brothers, 2023

Taylor-Joy, Ana, actress. *Last Night in Soho*. Focus Features, Universal Pictures, 2021.

TV Shows

"The Dundies." *The Office: Season 2*, written by Greg Daniels, Mindy Kaling, and Rickey Gervais, directed by Greg Daniels, NBC, 2005.

"94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation,* season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010. *Netflix,* www.netflix.com/watch/70152031.

Joe Penhall, creator. *Mindhunter*, Denver and Delilah Productions, 2019.

Music: A Song or Album
Morris, Rae. "Skin." *Cold,* Atlantic Records, 2014. *Spotify*,

open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi.

Gambino, Childish. *Because the Internet*. Glassnote, 2013.

Del Rey, Lana. "West Coast." *Ultraviolence*, Polydor and Interscope, 2014.

Interviews
Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1999, pp. 129-

50.

In-text Citation:

MLA requires certain information to appear in the sentence. You should look at this list as a checklist. Checking your MLA will become easier if you do this.

1) Author's Name
   You should always use the author's full name, First Last, the very first time you mention the author. After that, only use the last name.
2) Page Number (if available)
   Print sources have page numbers, but most of the internet does not. Only use a page number if the source has one.
3) Title (if needed).
   A) Use a title if there is no author
      This is common on the internet. It would be very rare to have a book with no author.
   B) Use a title if you use more than one source by the same author
      This occurs when you use two or more sources by the same author, or someone has the same name as another author you already used.

This information can go inside the sentence or inside the parenthetical notation. The purpose of this information is to cross-reference the Works Cited.

SUPER IMPORTANT RULE #1: When using in-text citation, if your source has an author, you **must use the author**!

SUPER IMPORTANT RULE #2: When using in-text citation, if your source **does not** have an author, you **must use the source's title**!

Examples:

Ayn Rand writes, “Then we slept. The sleeping halls were white and clean and bare of all things save one hundred beds” (21).

She writes, “Then we slept. The sleeping halls were white and clean and bare of all things save one hundred beds” (Rand 21).

According to the book *Anthem*, “And we sighed, as if a burden had been taken from us…” (Rand 44).

According to an internet article, “Changes in the global economy often affect the price of gas throughout the world” (“Understanding Gas Prices”).

In-text citation for media: If the media has a runtime, such as a movie or podcast, include the range of hours, minutes, and seconds you plan to reference. For example: (00:02:15-00:02:35).

Inclusive Language: aims to be respectful to others by treating language describing individual and group identity with sensitivity and by avoiding bias that could make some people feel excluded.

- Avoid using terms that specify the subject's ethnicity, religion, gender, social orientation, disability, age, or social status if it is not critical for your context.
- Implement gender neutrality. For example, "humankind" can be used instead of "mankind".
- Use Latinx terminology instead of Latino or Latina. The same goes for similar terms.
- Avoid overgeneralizing. For example, terms like Muslim community should be replaced with the more specific Sunni Muslims in India.
- Avoid religious generalizations for this newest MLA format edition by always making it clear what religion or beliefs you are referring to.
- The pronoun "they" can be used in the singular context.

*Some citation examples used from Purdue Owl.