Citation Style Guide

MLA 8th Edition

In April 2016, MLA replaced its seventh edition resources with a new eighth edition. This updated version reflects the ways in which digital publication has changed how writers and researchers document sources. Therefore, the new edition includes significant shifts in the approach to source documentation in academic writing. MLA has moved to one standard, universal format that researchers can use to create their citations.

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. These are the general pieces of information that MLA suggests including in each Works Cited entry. In your citation, the elements should be listed in the following order:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Like so:

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publisher Date, Location (page numbers, not place of publication.). 2nd container’s title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Pub date, Location.

Each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown here. If the element does not appear it is simply omitted. The new MLA citation style asks writers to consider what your readers need to know if they want to find your source. Once you become familiar with the core elements that should be included in each entry in the Works Cited list, you will be able to create documentation for any type of source. While the handbook still includes helpful examples that you may use as guidelines, you will not need to consult it every time.
you need to figure out how to cite a source you’ve never used before. If you include the core elements, in the proper order, using consistent punctuation, you will be fully equipped to create a list of works cited on your own.

Additionally;

- A book or website title should be in *italics*
- A periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper article) or a song or piece of music on an album should be in “quotation marks”
- Containers are the larger wholes in which the source is located. For example, if you want to cite a poem that is listed in a collection of poems, the individual poem is the source, while the larger collection is the container. The title of the container is usually italicized and followed by a comma, since the information that follows next describes the container.
- When you cite an online source, the *MLA Handbook* recommends including the date on which you accessed the material, since an online work may change or move at any time.

**Examples**

**In-text citations**

The in-text citation is a brief reference within your text that indicates the source you consulted. It should properly attribute any ideas, paraphrases, or direct quotations to your source and should direct readers to the associated entry in the list of works cited.

An in-text citation consists of the author’s name and page number (or just the page number, if the author is named in the sentence) in parentheses:

Imperialism is “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory” (*Said 9*).

or
According to Edward W. Said, imperialism is defined by “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory” (9).

Work Cited


Works Cited

Print book with one author:
Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Publication Date.


Article from a scholarly journal:
Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal, Volume, Issue, Year, Pages.


Article in an Online Scholarly Journal
Author(s). “Title of article.” Title of Journal, Volume, Number, Date published, Url. Date accessed.


A Page on a Web Site

Author(s)."Title of page." Title of site, Url. Date accessed.

Website
Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Name of Site. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), Date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).


For additional help, see the MLA’s style page: https://style.mla.org/

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