Creating a Works Cited List Using MLA (8th edition)

MLA is a style of documentation based on a general method that may be applied to many different types of writing. Since texts have become increasingly mobile, and the same document may often be found in several different sources, following a set of rigid rules no longer works as well as it did long ago. So, the current system is based on a few guiding principles, rather than an extensive list of specific rules. While the handbook still describes how to cite sources, it is organized according to the process of documentation, rather than by the sources themselves. This gives writers a flexible method that is near-universally applicable. Once you are familiar with the method, you can use it to document any type of source, for any type of paper, in any field. Here is an overview of the process:

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. Please note that each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown here:

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

That means the most basic form for adding a book to Works Cited is:

Last Name, First Name of author. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

Author
Begin the entry with the author's last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name, as presented in the work. End this element with a period.

Said, Edward W. *Culture and Imperialism.* Knopf, 1994.

1. Listing author names Entries are listed alphabetically by the author's last name (or, for entire edited collections, editor names). Author names are written last name first; middle names or middle initials follow the first name:

Burke, Kenneth
Levy, David M.
Wallace, David Foster

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Do not list titles (Dr., Sir, Saint, etc.) or degrees (PhD, MA, DDS, etc.) with names. A book listing an author named "John Bigbrain, PhD" appears simply as "Bigbrain, John"; do, however, include suffixes like "Jr." or "II." Putting it all together, a work by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be cited as "King, Martin Luther, Jr." Here the suffix following the first or middle name and a comma.

2. More than one work by an author

If you have cited more than one work by a particular author, order the entries alphabetically by title, and use three hyphens in place of the author's name for every entry after the first. Here, we have two books by Kenneth Burke. Only list his name for the first entry, and for the second, use three dashes:

> Burke, Kenneth. *A Grammar of Motives*.
> ---. *A Rhetoric of Motives*.

When an author or collection editor appears both as the sole author of one text, and as the first author of a group, list solo-author entries first:

> Heller, Steven, ed. *The Education of an E-Designer*.
> Heller, Steven, and Karen Pomeroy. *Design Literacy: Understanding Graphic Design.*

3. Work with no known author

Alphabetize works with no known author by their title; use a shortened version of the title in the parenthetical citations in your paper. In this case, *Boring Postcards USA* has no known author:

> Baudrillard, Jean. *Simulacra and Simulations*.
> *Boring Postcards USA*.
> Burke, Kenneth. *A Rhetoric of Motives*.

4. Books with more than one author

When a book has multiple authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book. The first given name appears in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear in first name last name format.

> Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring.* Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

If there are three or more authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others") in place of the other authors' names. (There is a period after "al" in "et al." but not after "et").

> Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

Title of source

The title of the source should follow the author's name. Depending upon the type of source, it should be listed in italics or quotation marks. Generally: use *italics* (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and "quotation marks" for titles of shorter works (poems, articles). Underlines (once used by typewriters that could not produce italics fonts) are now only used for websites/hyperlinks.

(1) **A book should be in *italics*:**

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

(2) **A website should be in *italics*:**

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow,* www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html.

(3) **A periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) article should be in quotation marks:**

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

(4) **A song or piece of music on an album should be in quotation marks:**

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade,* Parkwood Entertainment, 2016, www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/.

(5) **Basic Style for Citations of Electronic Sources (Including Online Databases)**

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). 2nd container's title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

A Page on a Web Site -- For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.

A *YouTube* Video -- Video and audio sources need to be documented using the same rules for citing print sources in MLA style. Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers understand the type and nature of the source you are citing. 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.

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

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

Title of container

Unlike earlier versions, The 8th Edition refers to "containers," which 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.

> Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories,* edited by Tobias Wolff, Vintage, 1994, pp. 306-07.

The container may also be a television series, which is made up of episodes.

> "94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation,* created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, performance by Amy Poehler, season 2, episode 21, Deedle-Dee Productions and Universal Media Studios, 2010.

The container may also be a website, which contains articles, postings, and other works.

> Zinkievich, Craig. Interview by Gareth Von Kallenbach. *Skewed & Reviewed,* 27 Apr. 2009, www.arcgames.com/en/games/star-trek-online/news/detail/1056940-skewed-%2526-reviewed-interviews-craig. Accessed 15 Aug. 2009.

> "94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation,* season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010. Netflix, www.netflix.com/watch/70152031?trackId=200256157&tctx=0%2C20%2C0974d361-27cd-44de-9c2a-2d9d868b9f64-12120962.

> Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. ProQuest, doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 27 May 2009.

Other contributors

In addition to the author, there may be other contributors to the source who should be credited, such as editors, illustrators, translators, etc. If their contributions are relevant to your research, or necessary to identify the source, include their names in your documentation.

> Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason.* Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

> Woolf, Virginia. *Jacob's Room*. Annotated and with an Introduction by Vara Neverom, Harcourt, Inc., 2008.

Version

If a source is listed as an edition or version of a work, include it in your citation.

> *The Bible.* Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students.* 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.

Number
If a source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a multi-volume book, or journal with both volume and issue numbers, those numbers must be listed in your citation.

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal,* vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

"94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation,* created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, performance by Amy Poehler, season 2, episode 21, Deedle-Dee Productions and Universal Media Studios, 2010.

Quintilian. *Institutio Oratoria.* Translated by H. E. Butler, vol. 2, Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980.

Publisher
The publisher produces or distributes the source to the public.

Klee, Paul. *Twittering Machine.* 1922. Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Artchive,* www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering_machine.jpg.html. Accessed May 2006.

Women's Health: Problems of the Digestive System. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2006.

Daniels, Greg and Michael Schur, creators. *Parks and Recreation*. Deedle-Dee Productions and Universal Media Studios, 2015.

Publication date
The same source may have been published on more than one date, such as an online version of an original source. For example, a television series might have aired on a broadcast network on one date, but was released on *Netflix* on a different date. When the source has more than one date, it is sufficient to use the date that is most relevant to your use of it. If you're unsure about which date to use, go with the date of the source's original publication.

In the following example, Mutant Enemy is the primary production company, and "Hush" was released in 1999. This is the way to create a general citation for a television episode.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, WB Television Network, 14 December, 1999.

Location

You should be as specific as possible in identifying a work's location.

An essay in a book, or an article in journal should include page numbers.

> Adiche, Chimamanda Ngozi. "On Monday of Last Week." *The Thing around Your Neck,* Alfred A. Knopf, 2009, pp. 74-94.

The location of an online work should include a URL. Remove any "http://" or "https://" tag from the beginning of the URL.

> Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2000, pp. 595-600, wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00-0607 article. Accessed 8 Feb. 2009.

Optional elements

The 8th Edition is designed to be as streamlined as possible. The author should include any information that helps readers easily identify the source, without including unnecessary information that may be distracting. The following is a list of optional elements that should be used at the writer's discretion.

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

> Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine.* 1984. Perennial-Harper, 1993.

Date of access: When you cite an online source, the *MLA Handbook* recommends including a date of access on which you accessed the material, since an online work may change or move at any time.

> Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites,* 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2009.

URLs: As mentioned above, while The 8th Edition recommends including URLs when you cite online sources, 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.

> Alonso, Alvaro, and Julio A. Camargo. "Toxicity of Nitrite to Three Species of Freshwater Invertebrates." *Environmental Toxicology*, vol. 21, no. 1, 3 Feb. 2006, pp. 90-94. *Wiley Online Library,* doi: 10.1002/tox.20155.

Creating in-text citations using the MLA 8th edition

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 entry in the list of works cited. For the most part, an in-text citation is the **author's name and the 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**).

This citation would then appear in the Works Cited page as:

> **Said, Edward W.** *Culture and Imperialism.* Knopf, 1994.

When creating in-text citations for media that has a runtime, such as a movie or podcast, include the range of hours, minutes and seconds you plan to reference, like so (00:02:15-00:02:35). Ultimately, your goal when adding in line source information is to attribute your source and provide your reader with a reference without interrupting your text. Your readers should be able to follow the flow of your argument without becoming distracted by extra information.

Works Cited page sample

The following page provides an example of a Works Cited page in MLA 2016 format. Please note the following basic guidelines:

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited and center the words Works Cited at the top of this page.
- Double space all citations. Do not skip spaces between entries.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a "hanging" indent.
- List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-250, using a hyphen.
- If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics.
- All works cited entries end with a period.
- For online sources, you should include a location to show readers where you found the source. Many scholarly databases use a DOI (digital object identifier). Use a DOI in your citation if you can; otherwise use a URL. Delete "http://" from URLs. The DOI or URL is usually the last element in a citation and should be followed by a period.

Works Cited

Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *The New York Times*, 22 May 2007,

www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/science/earth/22ander.html?_r=0. Accessed 12 May 2016.

Gowdy, John. "Avoiding Self-organized Extinction: Toward a Co-evolutionary Economics of

Sustainability." *International Journal of Sustainable Development,* vol. 14, no. 1, 2007, pp. 27-36.

An Inconvenient Truth. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performance by Al Gore, Paramount, 2006.

Leroux, Marcel. *Global Warming: Myth Or Reality?: The Erring Ways of Climatology*. Springer, 2005.

Milken, Michael, et al. "On Global Warming and Financial Imbalances." *New Perspectives Quarterly*,

vol. 23, no. 4, 2006, p. 63.

Nordhaus, William D. "After Kyoto: Alternative Mechanisms to Control Global Warming." *American

Economic Review*, vol. 96, no. 2, 2006, pp. 31-34.

---. "Global Warming Economics." *Science,* vol. 294, no. 5545, 9 Nov. 2001, pp. 1283-84, DOI:

10.1126/science.1065007.

Regas, Diane. "Three Key Energy Policies That Can Help Us Turn the Corner on Climate."

Environmental Defense Fund, 1 June 2016, www.edf.org/blog/2016/06/01/3-key-energy-policies-can-

help-us-turn-corner-climate. Accessed 19 July 2016.

Revkin, Andrew C. "Clinton on Climate Change." *The New York Times*, 17 May 2007,

www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/1194817109438/clinton-on-climate-change.html. Accessed

29 July 2016.

Shulte, Bret. "Putting a Price on Pollution." *US News & World Report*, vol. 142, no. 17, 14 May 2007, p.

37. *Ebsco,* Access no: 24984616.

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Bibliography Reference Worksheet

Author ➡	**Authors**: For one author, use the author's last name and then the first initial. *Example:* Daniels, E. For articles or books with two authors, add an "and" and the other names in regular order, such as: *Example:* Daniels, E. and Mickey Mouse. Note: many articles online do not include author's names.
Or Authors	
Title ➡	**Book Title**: For a book, use the title and any subtitle in italics. *Example: War and Peace.* **Article Title**: For titles from a newspaper, magazine or website, use the complete title and subtitle, inside "quotation marks." *Example: "*Welcome to the Classroom: Ten Tips for Teaching College Freshmen." Note: after the title use a period.
With Subtitle	
Publisher (for books) ➡	**Publisher:** For books, add the Publishing House listed on inside of title page. Add a comma before the date the book was published (see below). *Example*: Harcourt Brace,
Website (for internet sources) ➡	**Website:** add name of the website, in italics, and a comma *Example: Goodhousekeeping.com,*
URL (for internet sources) ➡	**URL:** add the exact URL address for the page of the website you accessed, underlined, ending with a period. *Example: www.Goodhousekeeping.com/wed/345.com.*
Publication date (books, or articles online when given) ➡	**Publication Date:** For books, look for copyright date on back of Title page; for websites, there may or may not be a date given for when the page was published. Then add a period. *Example:* Harcourt Brace, 2012.
Volume/Issue number ➡	**Volume/Issue**: If paginated by each issue (page numbering restarts on each issue), then add the issue number to the citation. Do not include the issue if the journal is continuously paginated. The volume is italicized and issue is in (parentheses), followed by a comma. *Example: 78*(5),
Page numbers ➡	**Page Numbers:** Page number range followed by a period. *Example:* 424-425.
DOI or Retrieved from URL ➡	**DOI:** When available, use the DOI (digital object identifier) and no further information is needed. If no DOI has been assigned, provide the home page URL of the journal, magazine or newspaper. *Examples:* Retrieved from http://crln.acrl.org/ or doi: 10.1016/j.acn.2007.12.004
Date accessed (for internet sources) ➡	**Date Accessed:** Add the date you looked at the website, since websites can change or be updated. Then finish with a period. *Example:* Accessed 12 June 2019.

Annotated Bibliography Annotations

Annotations offer a summary and an evaluation of a source. Depending on the length of the source, your annotations may be as few as four sentences or as long as a couple of paragraphs. The intention of the Annotated Bibliography is to both give the reader a sense of the value of a source, and to allow you to reflect on the source's value to your research.

Summarize

- To summarize a text begin by explaining the main arguments or points made by the authors.
- Then include the other topics that were covered.
- Briefly describe how the authors have dealt with these topics.
- Identify two or three concrete details that you might use in your research/conclusions.

Evaluate

- Next, evaluate the author(s) approach to the topic.
- Begin by describing if the text is primary source material or if it is a secondary source.
- Then explain how this source was useful to your research, and why.
- Compare this source with other sources in your bibliography.
- Discuss whether you found the text to be reliable or if you think there was some form of bias in the text.

Reflect

- Finally, reflect on how useful this source has been in your on-going research.
- Describe what about this source has helped shape your thoughts or final conclusions.
- Explain whether the source changed the way you think about your topic.
- Explain whether or not you would recommend this source to others.

Annotated Bibliography Worksheet – Cover Sheet

Begin your Annotated Bibliography with a cover sheet, describing the topic of your research. This cover sheet should follow normal MLA formatting. It will introduce the reader to your topic of research, including a number of the questions you are asking in your research. Finish by explaining your connection to the topic, that is, what is your goal in researching the topic.

Examples of Annotated Bibliographies are available upon request.