MLA Works Cited

This sheet summarizes Modern Language Association (MLA) style for Works Cited citations, as published in the seventh edition of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. MLA is only one of a number of popular styles for formatting, which are generally used according to discipline, but you should always use the methods and variations preferred by your professor.

For more complete style information, refer to seventh edition of the MLA Handbook or visit the OWL at Purdue at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/ and refer to the MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide.

Works Cited Formatting

In-text citations in MLA documents refer to full source citations in Works Cited, an alphabetical list of sources that appears on a separate page at the end of a paper.

- All sources should be alphabetized by author last name. If the author is not known, alphabetize by title (not including the words “a,” “an,” or “the”—e.g. alphabetize The Journal of Immunology under “J”).
- Center title one inch from top, followed by a double-space, and then begin your entries.
- Entries should also be double-spaced, with all lines after the first indented by five spaces (1/2”).
- Within the Works Cited, each source entry should be formatted according to the type and medium of the source. The 2008 MLA update requires that each entry include the medium (print, web, etc.). In the interest of space, the examples below are not double-spaced.

Print Sources

Book with one author

Book with more than one author

Corporate Author

Two or more works by same author: For entries after the first one, replace the name with three hyphens


Anthology

Work in an anthology

Book with more than one edition

Translation

If the translator is the more pertinent part of the citation (i.e. you are citing the translator’s comments or process), put the translators name first:
Reference Article

Journal Article

Magazine Article
If the magazine is printed monthly or less frequently, include the month and year. If it is published more frequently, include the entire date.

Newspaper Article

Editorial

Online Resources
For online resource citations, the latest version of MLA no longer requires a URL, but “web” must be added to citations, followed by the access date. However, if the URL is necessary to locate the source, do include it.

Citations for resources accessed on the web should include the following items as completely as possible, in order.
- Author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, and/or translator
- Title (if you are citing part of a larger work or site, put the subsection in quotations and the larger work in italics, as with the citations types above). If there is no title, put the genre of page (e.g. home page).
- Version or edition
- Publisher or sponsor, or N.p. if not applicable
- Publication date (day, month, year), or n.d. if no date
- Medium (“Web”)
- Date of access (day, month, year)

Web-only Resources


Print Sources Reproduced on the Web
If a source accessed on the web was originally published in print form (e.g. journal articles or texts scanned into a database), include the publishing information as in print entries, but also include “web” and the access date.

