

MLA Citation Works Cited Quick Sheet

MLA citations use **containers** to organize source details. Works-cited-list entries are formatted in a predefined order.

Works can be self-contained, use a single container, or use two containers, depending upon where the work is contained.

Core elements

Core elements include common source facts, like author and title.

Each core element is followed by a period.

1 Author.

2 Title of Source.

Container elements

A container *contains* a work and groups together source details to provide further information on where the work is contained.

Elements in a container are separated by commas with a concluding period at the end.

Container examples:

- Journal, magazine, or newspaper contains an article.
- Anthology contains an essay, poem, or short story.
- Database contains a digitized essay, book, journal, or other published media.
- Social media website or app (like *Instagram*, *X*, or *TikTok*) contains a photo, post, or video clip.

Container

3 Title of Container,

4 Contributor,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication Date,

9 Location.

Formatting elements

For all sources, list the details for the citation in the order described with core and container elements. Omit any elements that are not applicable. Add supplemental elements as necessary.

Author(s)

- List author's last name followed by a comma and then the rest of the name as listed (first and middle names). Include a middle initial if one is specified, followed by a period.
- For two authors, list them in the order they are presented in the work. Follow the first author's name with a comma and the word *and*. The second author should be written in reverse of the first, i.e., first name and then last name.
- For three or more authors, list the name of the first author (described above, last name first) followed by a comma and *et al*.
- If the author is a group, list the group.
 - Alphabetize the name by the first word.
 - Omit initial articles, such as *a, an, the*.

Title of Source

- For titles and subtitles, capitalize the first word, last word, and all principal words.
- If the work has a subtitle, follow the title with a colon (:) and space and then the subtitle.
- Italicize the titles of long-form works, such as books, journals, films, websites, apps, etc.
- Use quotation marks for titles of short-form works, such as articles, book chapters, poems, etc.

Title of Container

- As with titles and subtitles of a work, capitalize the first word, last word, and all principal words in a container's title.
- A container's title is normally italicized and followed by a comma.

Contributor

- Include key contributors, such as translators, editors, directors, composers, etc.
 - Introduce the contributor by describing their role, such as *illustrated by, performed by, directed by, edited by, translated by*, etc.
- Contributor names are listed first name and then last name.
- For three or more contributors in the same role, list the first followed by *et al*.

Version

- A version is included when the source has more than one form, including:
 - book editions
 - app version numbers
 - movie cuts/edits
 - video game editions
- For versions with numbers relating to a position in a series, define with arabic numerals and no superscript, e.g., *3rd*, *9th*.
- Use abbreviations for *revised* (*rev.*) and *edition* (*ed.*).

Number

- If the source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a volume, issue, episode, or season, include the number in your citation, preceded by a common abbreviation or term that identifies the type of division the number refers to. E.g.:
 - vol. 3
 - no. 14
- Write roman numerals or numbers spelled out as arabic numerals. E.g.:
 - XVII is written as 17
 - MCMLXXXV is written as 1985

Publisher

- List the entity responsible for producing the work, such as:
 - book publisher
 - film or TV studio, company, distributor, or network
 - publication produced by a government agency or department
- Record the name as it is listed in the source, including any punctuation.
- Separate copublishers with a forward slash (/).
- If the publisher's name has an ampersand (&) or plus sign (+), replace with *and* in your entry.
- Common abbreviations for a publisher can be used, such as *U* for *University* and *P* for *Press*.

Publication Date

- Provide the most specific date listed in the source.
 - The date included could be a revision date (like on a wiki or webpage) or date when a source was viewed or heard (as with a play or performance).
 - Year published is usually sufficient for books and ebooks.
 - Include the season listed with print and digital journals unless a more specific date is available.

- Use the day-month-year style to minimize commas in your entry.
 - Use arabic numerals for day and year.
 - Months can be abbreviated (e.g.: 23 Mar. 2023).

Location

Online works: list DOI, permalink, or URL.

- The DOI should include *https://doi.org/* preceding the source DOI string.
- When available, use the permanent, persistent, or stable link provided by the resource.
- Copy the full URL from the browser. Truncate when necessary.

Fixed pagination works, like an essay in an anthology or article in a journal: list page number or range.

- Precede page number(s) with *pp.* for pages or *p.* for a single page.
- Write page numerals as they are written in the source (arabic, roman, alphanumeric, etc.).

Sources viewed/heard in person, like performances, artwork, etc.: list the physical location.

Physical media, like a disc in DVD set: list number in system on source.

Supplemental elements

When necessary, add supplemental elements after the title of source or at the end of the citation to include additional information about the work, such as contributors, original publication date, date of access, medium of publication, etc.