Works Cited list

MLA style offers a flexible method for creating citations based on a set of “core elements.” Provide all of the elements that pertain to the source you are citing. Follow the order of elements as presented below, and note the type of punctuation that follows each element.

Title of the core source you are citing, i.e., name of chapter, article, video, etc.
Title of the source's immediate container, i.e., name of book, journal, website, etc.
Names of editors, translators, or others
Volume, issue, etc.

Author. “Title of source.” Title of container, other contributors, version, number, Publisher, publication date, location. Title of container, other contributors, version, number, Publisher, publication date, location.

Page numbers, URL, DOI, etc.

The first container may itself be found within a second container. This could be a database, web platform, app, book series, or something else.

Entries are arranged by the last name of the author, and lines following the first receive a hanging indent.

For example...

A book:


A book chapter:


A journal article:


Online Help for MLA Style

Visit style.mla.org for a quick guide to constructing works cited entries, as well as a helpful practice template.

For a brief overview of MLA style as a whole, see the Purdue OWL at owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
In-text citations

In-text citations direct the reader to the relevant entries in your Works Cited list. They are given in parentheses at the end of the sentence or clause referring to the work. They usually include the author’s name and the page number. If the author’s name appears in the sentence itself, it can be omitted from the citation.

For example:

For Michel Foucault, the soul represents “the present correlative of a certain technology of power over the body” (29).

In his view the soul represents “the present correlative of a certain technology of power over the body” (Foucault 29).

According to Foucault, the modern soul is created through the exercise of disciplinary power on the body (29).

Citations to a range of pages are indicated with a hyphen, e.g.: (Foucault, 29-30)

When citing multiple works by the same author, include the author’s last name, an abbreviated version of the title, and the page number.

For instance, an in-text citation to Emile Durkheim’s The Elementary Forms of Religious Life may appear as:

(Durkheim, Elementary Forms, 135)

When citing a work with no author, give an abbreviated version of the title in the parentheses.

When citing a work with no page numbers, as is sometimes the case with e-books or online articles, give a chapter or section number, if available.

Also note

Citations to sources from antiquity, such as Homer, Aristotle and Augustine, often follow specific rules, as do citations to the Bible. See section 3.3.2 of the MLA Handbook, 8th ed., for details.

Use block quotes for quotations that take up more than four lines. In-text citations to block quotes appear after the punctuation mark of the final sentence.

Get the book!


A copy of the Handbook can be found at the circulation desk.

Students majoring in humanities fields are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of their own.