Citations are formed by ordering information based on its level of importance. For each of the sources listed in the Works Cited page, information is presented in the following hierarchy with proper punctuation. These core elements are as follows:

1. author.
2. title of source.
3. title of container,
4. other contributors,
5. version,
6. number,
7. publisher,
8. publication date,
9. location.

MLA Core Elements (MLA 20)

Recommended Elements (MLA 50-53)

Depending on how you use the source, some citations might require additional information. The positioning of these optional elements varies. Some elements are placed in the middle of the citation while others are at the end of the citation. Examples of these are shown throughout our other citations.

In-Text Citations (MLA 54-58)

Each time a source is quoted directly or paraphrased in a paper, it should be accurately cited in parentheses and then listed on the Works Cited page. Follow these basic guidelines when citing sources:

- Most in-text citations consist of the author’s last name and the page number where the information was found.
- If the author’s name is mentioned in the sentence, only include the page number in the citation.
- Always place quotation marks around direct quotes.
- Paraphrasing needs citation but not quotation marks.
- Citations are placed after quotation marks, but the period goes after the citation: “Put the period after the citation” (Smith 389).

Common Citations in the Text of a Paper

One Author

(Jackson 1).

Two Authors

(Jackson and Hess 239).

Three or More Authors

(Jackson et al. 23).

No Author

(Use the first two or three words from title).

“Black Hair is Better” (“Black Hair” 37).

More Than One Work by the Same Author

(Add title to citation).

(Bartholomae, “Inventing the University” 635).

Indirect Sources

(qtd. in Neuhaus 65).

Works Cited

Each source that is quoted or paraphrased in a paper should be listed on the Works Cited page. Entries should be in alphabetical order, double spaced, and formatted with a hanging indent.

Tyson 15


Figure 2: Top of a Works Cited page
Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is the formatting method used by academic humanities writers generally to help scholars lead one another to the sources they have used in their writing.

What is MLA Style?
Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is the formatting method used by academic humanities writers generally to help scholars lead one another to the sources they have used in their writing.

This edition of the MLA style guide is best used with reference to its very helpful and in-depth website: style.mla.org

Printed Sources

**Book with One Author** (MLA 21)

**Book with Two or Three Authors** (MLA 21-22)

(In sources with more than three authors, either list each author’s name or put et al. after the first author’s name.)

**Book with an Editor or Translator** (MLA 37-38)

**Work in an Anthology** (MLA 35, 52)

**Journal Article** (MLA 30)

**Newspaper Article** (MLA 30)

**Magazine Article** (MLA 30)

**Personal Interview** (MLA 28, 29)

Online Sources

A variety of useful resources are available online. Before using online sources, confirming that the information is reputable and reliable is important. It is important to note, though, that each element of a reference is not always available for each source. If you cannot find every element, cite what is available. If the article you found online was also printed, first cite it like a printed article, and then add information about the electronic version. The following are examples of some possible references.

*For reference order, see core elements.

**Article in an Online Periodical** (MLA 32, 45)

**Website**

**Webpage** (MLA 30)

**Online Subscription Source** (MLA 32)

**Online Book** (MLA 34)

**YouTube Video** (MLA 44)

**Movie** (MLA 41)

**TV Series** (MLA 40)
Pretty Little Liars. ABC Family, 8 June 2010-present.

**TV Episode** (MLA 33, 40)

Corporate Authors (MLA 117)

- When citing corporate authors, omit any initial article; i.e., *a*, *an*, or *the*.
- Cite the book by the corporate author even if the corporate author is also the publisher.


Information compiled from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 8th Ed. Updated 2017 by Gwyneth Allred, Emily States, Sarah Taylor, Tanner Telford, & Khristie Tuttle. Special thanks to Kyra Hudson.

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