How to Cite Sources on an MLA Works Cited Page


Works cited entries in MLA style

- focus on 3 types of “containers”
- utilize 9 “core elements” (e.g., author, source title, etc.)
- basic format:
  
  Author Last Name, First Name Middle Name or Initial. *Title of Longer Work* or "Title of Shorter Work." Publisher, Year. URL or DOI.

*Note: A single source may be cited correctly in more than one way; the correct citation form depends on what you want to emphasize (e.g., the episode or the director of a TV show). See the last two examples of #3 below.

Containers

*Self-contained/stand-alone sources*: e.g., book, movie, whole website, brochure

- Book:
  

- Record:
  

*Sources in containers*: e.g., article in a journal, episode of a TV show

- Selection from an Anthology:
  

- Newspaper Article from a Website:
  

*Sources in containers in containers*: e.g., article in a journal in a database, episode of a TV show on YouTube, poem in an edited collection on Google Books
Journal Article from an Online Database:

TV Episode from an Online Streaming Service:

Core Elements
Omit any of the following elements that do not apply to a particular source. There is no need to include placeholders (e.g., *n. pag.* to signify “no page”) when something is missing. Examples below are bolded to illustrate core elements. Do not bold entries.

1. Author(s).


*For three or more authors, cite the first author as usual followed by *et al.*


*For multiple sources by the same author, cite the first source as usual; for subsequent sources, replace the author’s name with three dashes:


2. Source title (e.g., journal, edited collection, website, TV series).


3. Container title (i.e., source containing #2),


*Note: for items in a container in a container, add core elements 3–9 (as appropriate) for each container*

**Container Rules for Digital Sources**

- You must include a container for the source that appears at the end of your citation, especially if you are using a source in a source.
- The "Title of Container" may represent the website or online database where your source has been published. Likewise, it can be websites like SoundCloud, Facebook posts, blogs, articles, tweets, songs, Bible verses, or artworks.
- Google, Amazon, Blackboard, Facebook (as a general source), Amazon website, or Google as the primary source cannot be considered a container.
- You must add the format of your media source like “MP3 format,” “Amazon Prime Videoapp,” or a TV channel like BBC or NBC.

4. Other contributors (e.g., editor, translator, creator, illustrator),


5. Version,


6. Number,

“Past, Present, and Future.” NCIS. Created by Donald Bellisario, performance by Mark Harmon, season 13, episode 1, CBS, 2013.

7. Publisher,


8. Publication date,


9. Location (e.g., pages, DOI, URL).


Work Cited