How to Cite Sources on an MLA Works Cited Page

Use the following guidelines when formatting a works cited page in MLA style. For more information, see: The Modern Language Association of America. MLA Handbook. 8th ed., MLA, 2016.

Works cited entries in MLA style

- focus on 3 types of “containers”
- utilize 9 “core elements” (e.g., author, source title, etc.)

*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.

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),


www.netflix.com/watch/70236274.


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

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).


Works Cited
