

MLA 8th Edition Works Cited Basics

Core Elements

Each entry in the list of Works Cited is composed of facts common to most works—the MLA core elements. For any source you use—book, journal, video, website, photograph, painting— you must assemble as many of these core elements as are available. They are assembled in the following specific order with this specific use of punctuation, quotation marks, and italics.

Author's last name, author's first name.
"Title of Source." (article, song, episode, etc.)
<i>Title of Container.</i> (name of book, anthology, newspaper, magazine, TV series, etc.)
Names of other contributors, (edited by, directed by, narrated by, translated by, adapted by, illustrated by, narrated by, performance by, etc.)
Version or edition number,
Volume and issue number,
Publishing Company Name,
Publication Date,
Location. (page numbers, website address, DOI, Gale number, museum/gallery, disc number, or time in a video clip)

Containers

The concept of containers is crucial to MLA style. When the source being documented forms part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container that holds the source. For example, a short story may be contained in an anthology. The short story is the source, and the anthology is the container. Sometimes a source may have two containers. For example, a journal article retrieved from a database has two containers. The article is the source. The first container is the journal and the second container is the database.

Works Cited Page Guidelines

- list entries in alphabetical order
- all types of entries (print, internet) are combined into one list
- the list is double spaced throughout—in between each entry and each line
- the second/third line of the entry (if needed) is indented
- follow all punctuation rules as shown above
- items on the list are not numbered or presented with bullet points
- remove the hyperlink format and <http://> or <https://> from all website addresses

MLA 8
Sample Works Cited Page
sample begins below the line

J. Smith 5

Works Cited

- Beyoncé. "Pretty Hurts." *Beyoncé*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2013,
www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media_view=songs.
- Blum, Andrew. *Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet*. HarperCollins, 2012.
- Collier, Roger. "Harp seal heart valves being tested for human use." *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 23 June 2009, p. 1290+. General OneFile, GALE|A202305486
- "Gang related homicides, Canada, 1991-2010." *Statistics Canada*, 26 October 2012.
www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-0012-x/2011001/article/11561-eng-pdf
- Gatehouse, Jonathon. "What the Boomers are Leaving Their Children." *Maclean's*, vol. 123, no. 47, 6 December 2010, pp. 54+.
- Kearney, Mark, and Randy Ray. *The Big Book of Canadian Trivia*. Dundurn, 2009.
- Lachner, Elizabeth, editor. *Bioengineering*. Britannica Educational Publishing, 2015.
- Trower, Valerie Wilson. "Cheongsam: Chinese One-Piece Dress." *The Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion: East Asia*, edited by John E. Vollmer, vol. 6, Oxford UP, 2010, pp.142-146.
- "Under the Gun." *Pretty Little Liars*, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. *Hulu*,
www.hulu.com/watch/511318.