

MLA Works Cited Lists

Handout by Angela Gulick, Parkland College Writing Lab, July 2016

In April 2016, the Modern Language Association (MLA) came out with completely new rules for how to set up a Works Cited list. The following pages walk you through this new process step-by-step. However, let's first look at the general formatting rules for a Works Cited list.

Formatting Guidelines for Works Cited Lists

1. If you have one source, put the singular Work Cited at the top center of your page.
2. If you have more than one source, put the plural Works Cited at the top center of your page.
3. Works Cited lists are double-spaced both within **and** between entries. There are no extra spaces between different entries.
4. Works Cited lists use a hanging indent (each line of a Works Cited entry after the first line is indented ½ inch from the left). To learn how to create a hanging indent, check out this video: https://youtu.be/0yq_LHWB29Q.
5. Works Cited entries are alphabetized by author's last name or first major word of source's title (not counting the words A, An, and The) if there is no clearly named author.
6. Works Cited entries use title capitalization (all nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs are capitalized) but **not** words like minor words such as articles (a, an, the), coordinating conjunctions (and/but/for/nor/so/yet/or), and prepositions (of/in/out/with/among).
7. Dates are written in the following order: Day Month Year (example: 22 Dec. 2006).
8. All months other than May, June, and July are abbreviated.

Sample Works Cited List

Bull, Holly. "The Possibilities of the Gap Year." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, vol. 52, no. 44, 7

July 2006, pp. 77-79. *Professional Development Collection*, doi: 37163.dswes.28.

Chatzky, Jean. "If Your Kid Wants to Find Himself, Just Say Yes." *Money*, vol. 34, no. 12, Dec.

2005, pp. 40-42. *Academic Search Complete*, doi: 008473.s3s.723.

DeLuca, Stefanie. "Opposing View: Delay Is a Disadvantage." *USAToday.com*, Gannett Company,

26 Feb. 2008, www.usatoday30.usatoday.com/printedition/oppose26.art.htm.

Fitzsimmons, William, et al. "Time Out or Burn Out for the Next Generation." *Harvard College*

Admissions Office, Harvard University, 2006, www.college.harvard.edu/admissions/preparing-college/should-i-take-time.

Gose, Ben. Personal interview. 9 Apr. 2008.

Grume, Richard. "Is That Child Really Ready for College?" *Journal of College Admission*, vol. 188,

Summer 2005, pp. 6-9. *WilsonSelectPlus*.

The New “One Size Fits All” MLA Template

With the new edition of MLA documentation, there is one template into which you plug the details of your source as best you can. MLA calls the nine details below “core components.” There will be some sources for which you cannot find some of this information, so you skip those details.

The Nine Core Components
Author.
Title of Source.
Title of Container,
Other Contributors,
Version,
Number,
Publisher,
Publication Date,
Location.

Author.

“Author” is defined as “the person or group primarily responsible for producing the work or the aspect of the work that you focused on” (22). The author of a source can come in many forms: one author; two authors; three or more authors; a government, university, organization, or association author, an editor (if no author exists); a translator (if no author exists); a pseudonym (a pretend name such as you would find on an internet source); or no author at all. Here are some examples:

- **Source with No Named Author:** *Primary Colors: A Novel of Politics*. <<< When there is no named author, list source by first major word of title not counting the words A, An, and The.
- **Source with One Author:** Dobson, Janice R. <<< Note that name is listed “backwards” (Dobson, Janice R. not Janice R. Dobson).
- **Source with Two Authors:** Doud, Brian J., and Jill M. Wagner. <<< Note that only first listed author’s name is “backwards” (Doud, Brian J., not Brian J. Doud).
- **Source with Three or More Authors:** Koenigs, Laurie J., et al. <<< Provide first listed author’s name only followed by the words “et al.,” which mean “and others.” This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
- **Source with a Government, University, Organization, or Association Author:** United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Iowa State University, American Lung Association, Random Acts
- **Source with an Editor or Editors:** Stoltz, Jennie J., and Amy L. Gilligan, editors. <<< If there is no author, list editor or editors as if they were authors (see source with two authors example above).
- **Source with a Translator or Translators:** Pfeiffer, Lisa A., and Mark D. Zinn, translators. <<< If there is no author, list translator or translators as if they were authors (see source with two authors example above).
- **Source with a Pseudonym:** If an author name and pseudonym are both provided, cite by author’s name and then put pseudonym in parentheses if both details would be relevant to your reader: Gulick, Angela M. (@jaspersgirl). If only a pseudonym exists, cite source by the pseudonym only.

Title of Source.

It can be challenging to determine the title of a source, particularly if the source is contained in a larger source, such as a chapter from a book, an article in a magazine, a song on a CD, an episode of television from a series, or an essay in a collection of essays. Try to find the most specific title that is the most closely connected to the subject matter you are focusing on in your assignment. Article titles typically appear at the top of a document, are often centered, and are usually in larger print.

Here are some general reminders and examples:

- If the source is a small piece that is part of a larger source (such as a chapter title, article title, song title, single episode of television, essay title), enclose that title in “quotation marks.”
- If the source is the entire work itself (such as the entire name of a book, magazine, newspaper, website, television series, motion picture, CD, DVD), *italicize the title*.
- Use title capitalization for all titles (capitalize all nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). However, don’t capitalize words like articles (a, the, an), coordinating conjunctions (and, but, nor, for, or, yet, so), and prepositions (of, with, in, on, among).
- Don’t replicate any unusual typography even if it was in the original title, such as random capitalization or all capital letters.
 - *Original Title:* WHY DO THEY HAVE TO TALK SO FAST? AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH PATTERNS IN LORELAI AND RORY GILMORE
 - *Title Using Title Capitalization:* Why Do They Have to Talk So Fast? An Analysis of Speech Patterns in Lorelai and Rory Gilmore

<u>Article from a Website</u>	<u>Entire Website</u>
“Clothes Make the Man (or Woman)”	<i>Career Planning Fundamentals</i>
<u>Article from a Newspaper</u>	<u>Entire Newspaper</u>
"You Can Buy a Colorado Ghost Town Off Craigslist for \$350,000"	<i>The Denver Post</i> <<< If the name of the city of publication is not already part of the newspaper’s name, add the city in [brackets] immediately after the newspaper name: <i>The News Gazette</i> [Champaign].
<u>Song Title from a CD</u>	<u>Entire CD</u>
“Carry on My Wayward Son”	<i>The Best of Kansas</i>
<u>Episode of a Television Series</u>	<u>Entire Television Series</u>
“LARP and the Real Girl.”	<i>Supernatural</i>
<u>Essay out of Edited Collection or Anthology</u>	<u>Entire Edited Collection or Anthology</u>
“We’re Not Exactly the Brady Bunch”	<i>In the Hunt: Unauthorized Essays about Supernatural</i>
<u>Online Video Title</u>	<u>Entire Website</u>
“ <i>Game of Thrones</i> S6E10 Explained: Winter is Coming”	<i>YouTube</i>
<u>Tweet</u>	<u>Entire Website</u>
“I assume cereal boxes are single serving.”	<i>Twitter</i>

Title of Container,

OK, here is where the new MLA guidelines can get a bit confusing, so here we go. Think of many sources as being “contained” within larger sources: a song is “contained” on a CD; an episode of television is “contained” within the larger television series; a newspaper article is “contained” in the newspaper, a chapter is “contained” within a textbook, an online video is “contained” on a website such as YouTube or Yahoo, an article is “contained” in a specific magazine or journal. However, sometimes, these larger containers are “contained” inside even larger containers, sort of like Russian nesting dolls:



When it comes to “containers,” you have to sometimes think about a source being contained in multiple containers in order to provide the information your reader will need to track down the source in the real world. Sources that often have more than one container include episodes of television programs, database articles, or any source that appears as part of a larger series. Here are some common examples that show the multiple levels of containers you need to think about.

<u>Episode of Television</u>	<u>Container 1: TV Series</u>	<u>Container 2: Provider</u>
“My Kid Stays in the Picture”	<i>The Mindy Project</i>	Hulu
“Winter is Coming”	<i>Game of Thrones</i>	HBO
“Swan Song”	<i>Supernatural</i>	The CW
<u>Article from Online Journal</u>	<u>Container 1: Online Journal</u>	<u>Container 2: Database</u>
“Detection and Visualization of Emotion in Online Coverage about HBO’s Game of Thrones”	<i>Information Processing and Management</i>	<i>Business Source Elite</i>
<u>Downloaded Song</u>	<u>Container 1: Original CD</u>	<u>Container 2: Provider</u>
“Cole’s Song”	<i>Mr. Holland’s Opus</i>	iTunes
<u>Essay out of a Book</u>	<u>Container 1: Title of Book</u>	<u>Container 2: Series</u>
“Santaland Diaries”	<i>Holidays on Ice</i>	<i>The Ultimate David Sedaris Box Set</i>
<u>Online Video</u>	<u>Container 1: Producer</u>	<u>Container 2: Platform</u>
<i>Charlie and the Unicorn</i>	Filmcow Productions	YouTube

Remember, your goal is to relay to the reader where YOU found the source.

Other Contributors,

Listing “other contributors” is something of a judgment call; you need to look at those aspects of the source you are focusing on. For example, if you are citing a film and focusing on the acting, you would include the major performers here. Or, if you were focusing on the direction, you would include the director or directors. Language to look for in terms of including other contributors includes the following: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, introduction by, narrated by, performances by, translated by. You write out these terms rather than abbreviate them (Edited by..., not Ed. or Eds. Translated by..., not Tran. Or Trans.). This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.

Examples of Other Contributors

<u>Episode of Television</u>	<u>Other Contributors (Based on Focus)</u>
"Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performances by David Duchovney, Gillian Anderson, and Peter Boyle Directed by David Nutter
<u>Article Translated from Another Language</u>	<u>Other Contributors</u>
"An Examination of the Four Seasons in Margaret Atwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> "	Translated by Josephina L. Morgan
<u>Article from an Edited Collection/Anthology</u>	<u>Other Contributors</u>
"Revenge and Retribution Cersei Style: Women and Power in the Seven Kingdoms"	Edited by Nicole Daynes and Sally Hartford
<u>Forward or Introduction to a Book</u>	<u>Other Contributors:</u>
"Introduction to <i>All Those Positive Ions: Essays about Living on or Near Water.</i> "	Introduction by Reggie R. Taylor

Version,

Books are often published in different versions, especially if the book has been updated. Look for these words: numbered edition (such as 2nd edition), revised edition, expanded edition, unabridged version, version number (such as version 4.2), or director's cut (for a film or television show).

Number,

Some sources are published daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonally.

- If a source has a volume number, write vol. # (vol. 3). If a source has a volume and issue, write vol. #, no. # (vol. 3, no. 22). This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
- If a source is a television episode, write season, episode (such as season 4, episode 8).

Publisher,

Not all sources will have publishers. Periodicals (newspapers, magazines, journals, and trade publications) tend to lack publishers. However, books and websites tend to have publishers. If you don't find any clearly named publisher, you just skip this step. You no longer have to write "N.p." for "No publisher." This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.

- If source has multiple publishers that have equal responsibility for publishing, provide names of the publishers separated by a forward slash (/). Here is an example: Bedford/St. Martins.
- If source's publication date is before 1900 and there is no clearly named publisher, you may provide the city of publication in place of the publisher's name. Otherwise, you do not need to provide a city of publication. This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
- If your source is a website, the publisher can often be found at the bottom of the webpage next to a copyright date. Here is an example: © 2016 American Diabetes Association.
- With publisher names, omit words such as Company/Co., Corporation/Corp., Incorporated/Inc., Limited/Ltd, Publisher/Publishing/Pub.
- For academic presses (publishers closely connected to universities), use UP (which stands for University Press). Here are two examples: Iowa State UP and University of Illinois UP.

Publication Date,

Many, but not all, sources have dates of publication. Here are some tips to find the correct dates:

- If you can find no date of any kind, omit this step. You no longer have to write “n.d.” for “no date). This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
- If you find a date, provide all the details that were originally listed on your source.
- If multiple dates are listed on the source, provide the most recent date you can find.
- Dates are written in the following order: Day Month Year (example: 22 Dec. 2006).
- All months other than May, June, and July are abbreviated.
- If a season is provided as part of the date, include it and capitalize the season’s name. Here is an example: Winter 2015.
- **For websites**, if you can find no date at all, provide the date you accessed the information.
- **For websites**, look for last updated, last revised, current version to find the most current date.
- **For websites**, a copyright date is **not** the same as a date of publication. A copyright date is a legal term involving legal ownership of material, not necessarily the date of publication.

Location.

The location of information will vary depending upon the type of source you are citing, but these are the most common location indicators you will find:

- *Sources with Pre-printed Page Numbers:*
 - If your document has pre-printed page numbers, you will use p. (for one page, such as p. 32) or pp. (for multiple pages in sequential order, such as pp. 32-36). This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
 - If you have a document that begins on one page but continues on in a non-sequential way, simply put the first page number and add a plus sign: pp. 32+. This indicates that the article may have appeared on pages 32, 33, and 36.
 - Include page numbers for books **only** if you are citing a specific chapter from a book or an essay from a collection of essays or an anthology. Otherwise, omit page numbers.
- *Electronic Sources Such as Database Articles, Electronic Books, and Websites:*
 - If your source has something called a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), provide this number instead of a URL address because a DOI is more permanent, whereas a URL address can change at any time. The most common place you will find a DOI is database articles. Here is an example: doi: 10.165s48.45dses2. This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
 - If your source has a URL address, provide the address without the http://. Here is an example: www.uaa.alaska.edu/tjenkins/rhetoric. This represents a change from the 7th edition of MLA.
 - If your source has neither a URL address nor a DOI, skip this step.
- *Media Sources such as DVDs*
 - If you are using a source that is part of a DVD set, include the disc number (such as disc 4).
- *Physical Objects Such as Works of Art You Witnessed in Person:*
 - For something you witnessed firsthand, indicate the name of the institution and provide the city of the institution if it isn’t already part of the institution’s name. Here are two examples: Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. or Chicago Museum of Science and Industry (note that city name has been omitted since it is part of the name of the museum).