

Core Elements of a Works Cited List: MLA 8th Edition

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. These are the general pieces of information in each Works Cited entry. “An element should be omitted from an entry if it is not relevant to the work being documented. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown unless it is the final element, which should end in a period” (MLA Handbook, 8th Edition). In your citation, the elements should be listed in the order shown below.

1. Author.	Use last name, first name followed by a period (or use the corporate author). If citing a book by three or more authors-give the name of the first author only followed by et al. (Gilyard, Keith, et al.). Note that et al. means “and others”.
2. Title of source.	The title should be listed in italics or quotation marks. If you are citing an entire work like a book, the title should be in italics. If you are citing a part of a larger work, like a chapter of a book or an article on a website, the title will be in quotes.
3. Title of container,	Containers are the larger wholes in which the source is located. Examples include a website, database or magazine that contains an article you are citing, a book that contains a chapter you are citing, a disc that contains a song you are citing, a collection of poems that contains a poem you are citing, etc.
4. Other contributors,	If applicable, include editors, illustrators, translators, narrators, etc.
5. Version,	This is the edition number usually, but may be the name of a version. Examples: <i>The Bible</i> . Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998. The Modern Language Association of America. <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 8 th ed., 2016.
6. Number,	If a source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a multi-volume book, or journal with both volume and issue numbers, those numbers must be listed in your citation.
7. Publisher,	The publisher produces or distributes the source to the public. For a website it is the sponsor or copyright holder of the site.
8. Publication date,	If your source was published on more than one date and you are not sure which to use, go with the date of the source’s original publication.
9. Location.	Be as specific as possible. Locations include page numbers, URLs, *DOIs, the physical location of a work of art such as the name of the museum it is held by, etc. * A digital object identifier (DOI) is a series of digits and letters that identifies articles in databases. If your source is listed with a DOI use that instead of a URL.

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