MLA Style (8th edition): Core Elements

NOTE: Your instructor might request that you cite differently from the examples shown here. If so, follow his or her guidelines.

1. Author.
   • This can be one author or several authors.
   • The first author’s name is listed last name first. One additional author can be added first name first.
   • If there are three or more authors, add "et al." after the first author’s name.
   • A corporate author (the name of an organization, government agency, or institution) can be used.
   • If there is no author, begin the citation with the source title.

2. Title of source.
   • If the title of the source is a book, collection of essays or poems, play, movie, etc., put it in italics.
   • If the title of the source is an article or story in a journal or larger collection, put it in quotation marks (no italics).

3. Title of container,
   • Use this field if the source being documented is contained in a larger whole (like a magazine, journal, website, or anthology).
   • The title of the container is italicized.

4. Other contributors,
   • Use this field for contributors other than authors.
   • Precede each name with the person’s role (edited by, adapted by, translated by, etc.).

5. Version,
   • If the source is a specific version or edition of a work, note that here.

6. Number,
   • This field is where you note the volume of a multi-volume set or the volume and issue number of a journal, magazine, or other periodical.
   • Abbreviate the words "volume" and "number." It will look like this: vol. 6, no. 3.

7. Publisher,
   • The publisher is the company or organization responsible for creating the work. You can find this information on the title page of a book or in a copyright notice of a website.
   • Do not list the city of publication.
   • There usually isn’t a specific publisher listed for a journal or other periodical.

8. Publication date,
   • Cite the date most relevant to your use of the source.
   • If only a year is given, just cite the year. If the full date is given, it would be day month year order, so 19 Aug. 1992, for example.

9. Location.
   • In print sources with page numbers, use the page number (p. 56) or range (pp. 6-10) in this field.
   • This is also the field where you would list the URL of a website (omit http:// and https://), the permalink assigned by a database, or the DOI of a journal article. The DOI, or digital object identifier, is a permanent identifier for a source. Citing a DOI, if available, is preferred.
**NOTE:** Works can be composed of two containers. For example, a journal article could appear in a journal (container 1), which is contained in a database (container 2). When this is the case, repeat core elements 3-9.

**Entry composed of two containers:**