

Changes to the Eighth Edition

The eighth edition of the *Handbook* has changed quite a bit from the seventh. The actual entries on a Works Cited page may look similar, but the principles between the old documentation style and this new one are significantly different.

Rather than having to consult the *Handbook* or another resource to determine the proper way to cite a specific type of source (the method you probably used with previous editions of MLA), you now have in the eighth edition a universal set of guidelines that you can apply to any source, no matter the medium.

What this means is that you will create the entries on your Works Cited page by determining which of the nine core elements (explained below) are available in or applicable to each of your sources. Then, based on those elements, you will compile your entry in the recommended order and format (explained below).

Works Cited Guidelines

- Start on a new page with a page number; center the words “Works Cited” at top. This should be the last page of your paper (unless you have appendices).
- Include all sources cited in the text, both primary and secondary, whether summarized, paraphrased, or quoted.
- Do not include sources consulted but not cited.
- Alphabetize sources by the last name of the author or the first significant word of the title if the work has no author.
- Use a hanging indent (indent the second and subsequent lines in each entry).
- Apply MLA rules for capitalization. (See page 67 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)
- Maintain double-spacing. (Note: Examples that follow have been single-spaced to conserve space.)

Terms to Keep in Mind

Certain words in this edition of MLA may seem unclear because they’re used in unconventional ways; reference these definitions to learn how these terms are used.

- *Element*: These are the various components that may exist in any citation; these include Authors, Title of Source, Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, and Location.
- *Container*: This refers to larger works (like a database or newspaper) that contain smaller works (like individual articles). These smaller works are “nested” within the larger work.
- *Location*: This no longer refers to place of publication. This now refers to page numbers, URLs, permalinks, and digital object identifiers (DOIs).

Note: Each element is highlighted in its respective section in the examples that follow. This was done only to visually separate it from the other elements in the section; do not use highlighting in any part of your Works Cited page.

Element 1: **AUTHORS.**

The first step is to determine whether your source has an author.

- If it doesn't, you can skip this element in your citation.
- If it does have an author, determine whether it is one author, two authors, three or more authors, an individual other than an author (like a translator), someone using a pseudonym, or a corporate author. Then, format according to the relevant example below.

This element ends with a period. (See pages 2-25 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Format	Example
One author	Gardner, Eric. <i>Black Print Unbound: The Christian Recorder, African American Literature, and Periodical Culture.</i> Oxford UP, 2015.
Two authors	Carter, Geoffrey V., and Sarah J. Arroyo. "Tubing the Future: Participatory Pedagogy and Youtube U in 2020." <i>Computers and Composition: An International Journal for Teachers of Writing</i> , vol. 28, no. 4, Jan. 2011, pp. 292-302.
Three or more authors	Raica-Klotz, Helen, et al. "'Developing Writers': The Multiple Identities of an Embedded Tutor in the Developmental Writing Classroom." <i>Praxis: A Writing Center Journal</i> , vol. 12, no. 1, 2014, www.praxisuwc.com/raica-klotz-et-al-121.
Individual other than the author	Burgess, Anthony, translator. <i>Oedipus the King.</i> By Sophocles, U of Minnesota P, 1972. ¹
Pseudonym	@SVSUPrez. "Spent a fun evening with visiting students from Ming Chuan University and Shanghai Normal University." <i>Twitter</i> , 25 July 2016, www.twitter.com/svsuprez.
Corporate author	Saginaw Valley State University. <i>A Master Plan for Guiding Future Opportunity.</i> Aug. 2012, www.svsu.edu/campusfacilities/planningconstruction/.

¹ In this instance, the emphasis is not on the writer of the work, but another person linked to the work. In the Burgess citation, the student is writing a paper comparing two different translations of Sophocles' play rather than doing a close reading of one translation of the play.

Element 2: **TITLE OF SOURCE.**

Next, determine whether your source has a title. (It most likely does.)

- If your source stands alone (i.e., it does not have a larger container), italicize the title.
- If your source is part of an academic journal, newspaper, magazine, series, album, or other container, place the title in quotation marks. The container will be italicized, as discussed in the next step.

This element ends with a period. (See pages 25-29 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Format	Example
Book or graphic	Gardner, Eric. <i>Black Print Unbound: The Christian Recorder, African American</i>

novel title	<i>Literature, and Periodical Culture</i> . Oxford UP, 2015.
Essay, chapter, short story, or poem title in a larger work or anthology	Cook, Daniel. "Utopia from the Rooftops: H.G. Wells, Modernism and the Panorama City." <i>Utopian Spaces of Modernism: British Literature and Culture, 1885-1945</i> , edited by Rosalyn Gregory and Benjamin Kohlmann, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 105-20.
Article title	Branch, John. "Olympian's Mother Leaves a Suitcase at Check-In, and It Is Destroyed." <i>The New York Times</i> , 15 Aug. 2016, nyti.ms/2bsITIE.
TV show title	"Threat Level Midnight." <i>The Office</i> , directed by Tucker Gates, season 7, episode 17, NBC, 17 Feb. 2011.
Web page title	"Career Services." <i>Saginaw Valley State University</i> , www.svsu.edu/careerservices/.
Song title	Astley, Rick. "Never Gonna Give You Up." <i>Whenever You Need Somebody</i> , RCA Records, 1987.
Email title	LaPrad, John. "Email Expiration Notice." Received by Kylie Wojciechowski, 6 Aug. 2016.

Element 3: CONTAINERS,

If your source is nested within a larger container (like a journal, anthology, series, or album), place the source title in quotation marks and italicize the larger container title. This element ends with a comma. (See pages 30-36 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- A source can be nested within multiple containers (i.e., a scholarly essay can be nested in a journal that can be nested in a database). If this is the case, that second container, which will also be italicized, will come later in your citation.

Format	Example
One container	Munn, Paul. "Puissance, Jouissance, and Communication: Mediating John Ashbery's 'The Salve Merchant' in the Context of his Planisphere." <i>Imaginaires</i> , no. 18, 2014, pp. 173-84.
Two containers	Mosher, Michael. "Painting Material Culture: Community Art Research in Saginaw, Michigan." <i>Material Culture</i> , vol. 44, no. 2, 2012, pp. 43-60. <i>JSTOR</i> , www.jstor.org.library.svsu.edu/stable/24396672.

Element 4: OTHER CONTRIBUTORS.

If there are other important contributors to your source (like authors, translators, directors, or performers), include them if it will provide your readers with more information about your source. This element ends with a comma. (See pages 37-38 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Format	Example
Editor	Knoblock, Natalia. "Sarcasm and Irony as a Political Weapon: Social Networking in the Time of Crisis." <i>Political Discourse in Emergent, Fragile, and Failed Democracies</i> , edited by Daniel Ochieng Orwengo, Omonodi Oketch, and Asiru Hameed Tunde, IGI-Global, 2016, pp. 11-33.
Translator	Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. <i>Crime and Punishment</i> . Translated by Constance Garnett, Dover Publications, 2001.
Director	<i>Safe</i> . Directed by David Rzeszutek, 18 Nov. 2015, Saginaw Valley State University Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts, University Center, MI.
Performer	<i>The Game's Afoot</i> . Directed by Steven C. Erickson, performance by Jonah Conner and Amanda Moths, 7 Oct. 2015, Saginaw Valley State University Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts, University Center, MI.

Element 5: VERSIONS.

If you are using a specific version or edition of your source, indicate which version, whether you're using a book, movie, song, or other form of media. This element ends with a comma. (See pages 38-39 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- Always use a digit for a version number, no matter what the source itself indicates.
- Abbreviate edition to **ed.** and revised to **rev.**

Format	Example
Version of a book	Austen, Jane. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> . Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services, 2012.
Version of a sacred text	<i>The Holy Bible</i> . New International Version, Zondervan, 2011.
Version of a movie	<i>The Ruins</i> . Directed by Carter Smith, unrated ed., Dreamworks Video, 2008, Amazon Prime.
Version of a song	Eminem. "Brain Damage." <i>The Slim Shady LP</i> , explicit version, Interscope Records, 2000, Spotify, play.spotify.com/album/0vE6mttRTBXR9rKghyr11.

Element 6: NUMBERS,

If your source has numbers associated with it (like a TV show or journal article would), include those here. This element ends with a comma. (See pages 39-40 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- When including an article's volume and issue numbers, abbreviate volume to **vol.** and number to **no.**

Format	Example
Journal/comic book numbers	Carter, Geoffrey V., and Sarah J. Arroyo. "Tubing the Future: Participatory Pedagogy and Youtube U in 2020." <i>Computers and Composition: An International Journal for Teachers of Writing</i> , vol. 28, no. 4, Jan. 2011, pp. 292-302.
TV show numbers	"Threat Level Midnight." <i>The Office</i> , directed by Tucker Gates, season 7, episode 17, NBC, 17 Feb. 2011.

Element 7: PUBLISHER,

Next, include the publisher of your source. If your source has more than one publisher, separate the publishers with a slash. This element ends with a comma. (See pages 40-42 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- Omit words referencing companies or corporations (like LLC, Company, Co., etc.).
- Abbreviate University Press as UP. (This may look like U of Michigan P.)
- Omit publisher information when working with any periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers).
- Omit publisher information for any website when the web site name is the same as the publisher's name.

Format	Example
One publisher	Gardner, Eric. <i>Black Print Unbound: The Christian Recorder, African American Literature, and Periodical Culture</i> . Oxford UP, 2015.
Two publishers	Bilodeau, Brent L. "Understanding Genderism." <i>The Art of Effective Facilitation: Reflections from Social Justice Educators</i> , edited by Lisa M. Landreman, ACPA-College Student/Stylus, 2013, pp. 67-80.

Element 8: PUBLICATION DATE.

If the publication date (exact or seasonal) is available, include it here. This element ends with a comma if more information follows in the citation. (See pages 42-46 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- When providing the full date, writers should use the European format of Day Month Year. MLA abbreviates all months except May, June, and July.
- MLA gives the full date for articles published in daily newspapers; writers can also give the full date for other periodicals if available.

Format	Example
Exact date	@SVSUPrez. “Spent a fun evening with visiting students from Ming Chuan University and Shanghai Normal University.” <i>Twitter</i> , 25 July 2016, www.twitter.com/svsuprez.
Seasonal date	Munn, Paul. “The American Sonnet Community in the Early 1920s: The Alternative Evolution.” <i>CEA Critic: An Official Journal of the College English Association</i> , vol. 74, no. 1, Fall 2011, pp. 60-79.

Element 9: LOCATION.

This component is misleadingly named. It does not refer to the city, state, or country where a source was published. This element instead refers to the location of cited information in terms of pages or online location. This element ends with a period. (See pages 46-50 of the *MLA Handbook* for more information.)

Things to Remember:

- Omit “http://” from web addresses.
- **Print resources** include page ranges.
 - p. = one page
 - pp. = range of pages
- **Online resources** include URL or digital object identifier (DOI).
 - Choose a DOI over a permalink or URL.
 - Choose a permalink over a URL.

Format	Example
Print resources	Munn, Paul. “The American Sonnet Community in the Early 1920s: The Alternative Evolution.” <i>CEA Critic: An Official Journal of the College English Association</i> , vol. 74, no. 1, Fall 2011, pp. 60-79.
Online resources	Baruth, Megan, et al. “Clinically Meaningful Changes in Functional Performance Resulting from Self-Directed Interventions in Individuals with Arthritis.” <i>Public Health</i> , vol. 133, 2016, doi:10.1016/j.puhe.2016.01.004.