the *Writing* center
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY BROKEN ARROW

MLA 9ᵗʰ Edition

This most recent edition of MLA offers writers a method that is widely applicable to a variety of situations. Instead of strict rules to adhere to, this edition gives writers general principles to follow when citing their sources, which provides much more flexibility during the writing process.

Each entry in the list of works cited is composed of elements common to most works—the MLA core elements. They are assembled in a specific order: the author, the title of the source, and the containers (style.mla.org).

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. Within that container, you will also find other core elements such as other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, and location (style.mla.org).

When finding source information, look for these core elements:

- Author
- Title of source
- Title of container (where the title of source is found)
- Other contributors
- Version/Edition/Volume
- Number
- Publisher
- Publication date
- Location

After finding these core elements, citing them becomes a streamlined process and the *punctuation* is as follows:

- Author**.**
- Title of source**.**
- Title of container**,**
- Other contributors**,**
- Version/Edition/Volume**,**
- Number**,**
- Publisher**,**
- Publication date**,**
- Location**.**

You can find practice templates and examples for MLA works cited entries at
https://style.mla.org/works-cited/works-cited-a-quick-guide/

Examples

Examples and Framework	Current Edition
Online Scholarly Article from a Database Author's Last name, First name. "Name of the Article." *The Title of the Publication*, vol. #, no. #, year of publication. DOI if available; otherwise, provide a URL or permalink	Sturges, Robert S. "'The Canterbury Tales'" Women Narrators: Three Traditions of Female Authority." *Modern Language Studies*, vol. 13, no. 2, Spring 1983, pp. 41-55. *JSTOR*. https://doi.org/10.2307/3194486 If a DOI is not available, use the URL that links to your source instead: https://www.jstor.org/stable/3194486
A Printed Book Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.	Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. 3rd ed., Perennial-Harper, 2005.
Work on a Website Author. "Title of Work." *Name of Site*, Publisher (if available), date of resource creation (if available), DOI (preferred); otherwise, include a URL or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).	Riley, Alex. "Scotland is Home to Small 'Tigers,' But Maybe Not for Long." *The Independent*, 2017, https://m.theindependentbd.com/arcprint/details/96032/2017-05-24. Accessed 30 June 2022.

Quick Links and Resources

The MLA Style Center
This is the official site of the MLA 9th Edition and is a useful resource for answering your MLA-specific questions.
https://style.mla.org/

The Purdue OWL
This site offers writers a variety of sources concerning MLA style. It is especially useful when double-checking your works cited page.
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill
This is a helpful resource for a variety of your grammatical and structural questions as you write your papers.

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/

YouTube
These two videos provide an excellent overview of the basics of MLA 9th edition and are worth watching for foundational information:

Introduction to Citation Styles: MLA 9th ed.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7MyM_V8-EA
&
The Basics of MLA In-text Citations | Scribbr
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypWxhhpGeyM

Writing Center in Broken Arrow
Committed to Creating Stronger Writers in all Disciplines
BALB 106
www.nsuok.edu/wcba