

MLA Works Cited Page

The whole point of Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines is to direct your reader to your Works Cited Page, which lists the sources of all the information that you cite in your essay. You direct your readers to this page with brief parenthetical information, which is explained on another tip sheet.

General Format

Place a “Page Break” between the rest of your essay and your Works Cited list to ensure that it appears on its own page(s). Your Works Cited page must be double-spaced with one-inch margins, with the words “Works Cited” appearing at the top of the page, centered. Your sources must be listed in alphabetical order, ignoring any initial *A*, *An*, or *The* in titles of works. For example, *An Encyclopedia of the Latin American Novel* would be alphabetized under *E* rather than *A*. You must use hanging indentation for each entry.

Core Elements

A Works Cited page entry lists facts common to most works—author, title, and so on. These “core elements” of an entry in the Works Cited list are given below in the order in which they should appear. An element should be omitted if it’s not relevant to the work being documented. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown in the table below unless it is the final element listed, which should always end with a period.

1	Author(s).	Walz, Joel and Jean-Pierre Piriou.
2	Title of source.	<i>Rapports: Language, Culture, Communication.</i>
3	Title of container,	
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	2 nd ed.,
6	Number,	
7	Publisher,	D.C. Heath and Company,
8	Publication date,	1990.
9	Location.	

This is how these elements would appear within a Works Cited page, in hanging indent format:

Walz, Joel and Jean-Pierre Piriou. *Rapports: Language, Culture, Communication*. 2nd ed., D.C. Heath and Company, 1990.

A Second Container

When citing electronic material from databases or other online resources, such as JSTOR or EBSCO, you will need to acknowledge the database as a second “container.”

1	Author(s).	Goldman, Anne.
2	Title of source.	“Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.”
3	Title of container,	<i>The Georgia Review,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	vol. 64, no. 1,
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	2010,
9	Location.	pp. 69-88.

3	Title of container,	<i>JSTOR,</i>
4	Other contributors,	
5	Version,	
6	Number,	
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication date,	
9	Location.	www.jstor.org/stable/ 41403188.

This is how these elements would appear within a Works Cited page, in hanging indent format:

Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, D.C. 2010, pp. 69-88, *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/ 41403188.](http://www.jstor.org/stable/41403188)

An Optional Element

The date you accessed electronic material is not required because many electronic academic resources, such as those you find in the library's databases, are stable. There are, however, online sources that can change. Webpages can be updated or taken down, blog posts can be modified or deleted, and some scholarly resources can move or have multiple versions, particularly those that are hosted by universities on their websites. Be sure to follow any instructions your professors give you about including this and other optional MLA elements in your Works Cited entries.

This is how the access date would appear within a Works Cited page, if requested by your professor:

Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, D.C. 2010, pp. 69-88, *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/ 41403188.](http://www.jstor.org/stable/41403188) Accessed 8 Dec. 2020.

Author(s)

The author is the first element listed. When a work is published without an author's name, do not list the author as "Anonymous." Instead, skip the author element and begin the entry with the work's title.

One Author

Frye, Northrup. "Don't You Think It's Time to Start Thinking?" *Mercury Reader*, edited by Janice Neuleib, et al., Pearson, 2016, pp. 52-54.

Two Authors

Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. *The Crown of Columbus*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.

Three or More Authors

Burdick, Anne, et al. *Digital Humanities*. MIT P, 2012.

An Author with a Title or Suffix

A book listing an author named "John Bigbrain, PhD" appears simply as "Bigbrain, John"; do, however, include suffixes like "Jr." or "II."

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail" *Mercury Reader*, edited by Janice Neuleib, et al., Pearson, 2016, pp. 104-120.

Corporate Author

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries*. Taylor and Francis, 1991.

Title of Source

After the author, the next element included in the entry is the title of the source.

An Article in a Periodical

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword

Greenblatt, Stephen, et al. *Introduction*. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*. 9th ed., vol. C, W.W. Norton & Company, 2012, pp. 2177-2205.

Title of Container

When the source being documented forms a part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container.

Anthology (Book that is a collection of essays, stories, and/or poems)

Pope, Alexander. *The Rape of the Lock*. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Stephen Greenblatt et al., 9th ed., vol. C, W.W. Norton & Company, 2012, pp. 2686-2704.

Periodical

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

Other Contributors

Aside from an author whose name appears at the start of the entry, other people may be credited in the source as contributors. Preceded each name with a description of the role. Below are common descriptions:

- directed by
- edited by
- illustrated by
- introduction by
- narrated by
- translated by

Editor(s)

Pope, Alexander. *The Rape of the Lock*. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Stephen Greenblatt et al., 9th ed., vol. C, W.W. Norton & Company, 2012, pp. 2686-2704.

Translator(s)

Beowulf. Translated by Alan Sullivan and Timothy Murphy, edited by Sara Anderson, Pearson, 2004.

Version

Books are commonly issued in versions called editions. Other media may also appear in versions.

Book

Walz, Joel and Jean-Pierre Piriou. *Rapports: Language, Culture, Communication*. 2nd ed., D.C. Heath and Company, 1990.

Film

Scott, Ridley, director. *Blade Runner*. 1982. Performance by Harrison Ford, director's cut, Warner Bros., 1992.

Play

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*. Edited by Stephen Orgel, 1608 quarto version, Penguin Classics, 2000.

Number

The source you are documenting may be part of a numbered sequence.

Book

Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes*. 2nd ed., vol. 2, Oxford UP, 2002.

Periodical

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Publisher

The publisher is the organization primarily responsible for producing the source or making it available to the public. Omit the publisher's name for a web site whose title is essentially the same as the name of the publisher. A web site not involved in producing the works it makes available (e.g., a service for users' content like Twitter or YouTube, or an archive like JSTOR or EBSCO) is named earlier as a container and does not qualify as a publisher of the source.

Book

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2001.

Website

Harris, Charles. "Tennie." *Woman in Paisley Shirt behind counter in Record Store*.
Tennie Harris Archive, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh,
tennie.cmoa.org/interactive/index.html#date08.

Publication Date

Sources—especially those published online—may be associated with more than one publication date. For instance, an article collected in a book may be accompanied by a note saying that the article appeared years earlier in a journal. A work online may have been published previously in another medium. When a source carries more than one date, cite the date that is most relevant to your use of the source. For example, if you consult an article on the web site of a news organization that also publishes its articles in print, the date of online publication may appear at the site along with the date when the article appeared in print. Since you consulted only the online version of the article, ignore the date of the print publication.

Book

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage Books, 1995.

Periodical Online

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, 28 Dec. 2014, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.

Periodical in Print

Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur." *The Atlantic*, Jan.-Feb. 2015, pp. 92-97.

Location

How to specify a work's location depends on the medium of publication. In print sources, a page number (preceded by p.) or a range of page numbers (preceded by pp.) specifies the location. If a work in a periodical is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number and a plus sign, leaving no intervening space.

Anthology (Book that is a collection of essays, stories, and/or poems)

Pope, Alexander. *The Rape of the Lock*. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Stephen Greenblatt et al., 9th ed., vol. C, W.W. Norton & Company, 2012, pp. 2686-2704.

* The former practice of citing the city where a publisher of a book was located usually serves little purpose today; hence, it is not included in citing books.

Periodical

Williams, Joy. "Rogue Territory." *The New York Times Book Review*, 9 Nov. 2014, pp. 1+.

Website

Harris, Charles. "Tennie." *Woman in Paisley Shirt behind counter in Record Store*. Tennie Harris Archive, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, tennie.cmoa.org/interactive/index.html#date08.