MLA Core Elements

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container.
4. Other contributors.
5. Version.
6. Number.
7. Publisher.
8. Publication date.
9. Location.

These are the core elements of any entry in a works-cited list, in the order in which they should appear. Any element not relevant to the item being documented is simply omitted from the entry. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown, unless it happens to be the final element, which should end with a period.

For works that are part of a larger whole, such as a poem in an anthology, the larger whole is thought of as a Container, meaning that it contains the specific work being cited. Many items have two containers. Articles found in a database, for example, are contained within a journal, which is contained within a database. For items with two containers, list the core elements for the first container, then list the additional elements for second container. Example provided at the top of the guide.

For further guidance, consult the MLA Handbook available at the Circulation and Reserves Desk. For additional help or questions on writing, refer to the Writing Room located in H&SS 112 OR call or stop by the Library Reference Desk.

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Page references throughout this guide are to: MLA Handbook, 8th ed. MLA, 2016.

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**Book by three or more authors:** (In the works cited entry, use a comma between the first author and ‘et al.’ but do not use a comma in the parenthetical citation.) (pp. 22, 116)

**Parenthetical Citation:** (Weed et al. 48)

**Article or Essay in an Edited Collection or Anthology:** (pp. 27, 30-35, 37-38)

**Parenthetical Citation:** (Allan 22)

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**Parenthetical Citation:** (Morisani 111)

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**Journals/Magazines/Newspapers**

**Journal Article:** (p. 27, 30, 39-40)

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**Magazine Article on Non-consecutive Pages:** (If the article is unsigned, begin the entry with the title.) (pp. 30, 110)

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