

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.

Repeat fields 3-9 as necessary:

MLA Practice Template

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

From *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.), published by the Modern Language Association (style.mla.org).

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:

Ryan, Joseph B., et al. "Establishing Adaptive Sports Programs for Youth with Moderate to Severe Disabilities." *Preventing School Failure*, vol. 58, no. 1, 2014, pp. 32-41. *Academic Search Premier*, doi:10.1080/1045988X.2012.755666.