The MLA style uses a single formula to create a citation for any type of source (books, articles, websites, videos, etc.). Each entry on a Works Cited list follows the same template.

This template consists of nine elements.

Under the new MLA style, it is possible to create more than one correct version of a citation, with minor variations.

Follow the formula to create citations, and ask for help if needed.
The 9 Core Elements

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Title of source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Title of container,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other contributors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Version,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Publisher,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Publication date,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Location.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Author.

An **author** is the person responsible for writing the source.

**One author:** Hoffman, Alice.

**Two authors:** Hoffman, Alice, and Henry McIntyre.

**More than two authors:** Hoffman, Alice, et al.

“et al.” is Latin for “and all the rest.”
Title of Source.

A **source** is something researchers get information from. Examples of sources: books, articles, websites, videos, people.

Book titles: *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Article titles: “Hot Chocolate Weather.”

**Rule:**
- If a source can stand alone (for example, a book, a play, or a film), the title is written in italics.
- If a source is part of another source (a book chapter, an episode of a TV series), the title is written in quotation marks.
Title of Container,

Generally, a container is something that holds a source.

Examples (the container is underlined):

• An article in a journal
• A chapter in an edited book
• An episode of a TV series, streaming on Netflix.
• A song on a CD
• A poem in an anthology in a database

Rule

The names of the containers always go in italics.
Other contributors,

In MLA style, a **contributor** is someone *other than the author* who provides something of importance to the source. Without that contribution, the source would not make sense.

**Examples**: editors, photographers, illustrators, translators, movie directors, etc.
Version,

The term **version** refers to a **variant** of something.

Examples:

- a variant of a film: director’s cut, extended version

**Rule**

The word “edition” is always abbreviated to “ed.”
Number,

The **number** element documents *volumes* and *issues*. This applies to periodicals and also to other materials that may come in volumes.

Examples:

*Journal of Neurobiology*, vol. 2, no. 16

*World Encyclopedia*, vol. 8
Publisher,

The **publisher** of a source is the person or company that prepares and makes the source available for sale (example: books) or viewing (example: website).

**Notes**

- A website publisher is not mentioned unless the name is very different from the name of the website
- A journal publisher is not mentioned in the citation
Publication date,

• For books, the year of publication.
• For periodical articles, the year of publication
• For other articles (newspapers, websites), the day, the month, and the year

Rules

• The dates follow the European format: 22 Jan. 2016.
• The months are abbreviated as follows: Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr.,
Location.

The **location** element documents one of the following:

- **Page numbers** (for example, for an article in a journal)
- **URL** (for example, for a website)
- **DOI** (Digital Object Identifier, for electronic journal articles)

A DOI (Digital Object Identifier), is a string of numbers, letters and symbols that permanently links an article or document on the Web. If a DOI is available, it must be used.
For more information

• Visit the library’s MLA site
• Visit style.mla.org