

MLA Works Cited Examples

25+ Source Types Formatted Correctly (9th Edition)

Complete Reference Guide for MLA Format | Updated December 2025

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Understanding MLA 9th Edition Core Elements

MLA 9th edition uses a flexible "container" system. Follow this order when available:

1. **Author**
2. **Title of source**
3. **Title of container** (if applicable)
4. **Other contributors** (if applicable)
5. **Version** (if applicable)
6. **Number** (if applicable)
7. **Publisher**
8. **Publication date**
9. **Location** (page numbers, URL, DOI)

General Formatting Rules:

- Alphabetize entries by author's last name
- Use hanging indent (first line flush left, subsequent lines indented 0.5")
- Double-space all entries
- Italicize titles of containers (books, journals, websites)
- Use quotation marks for titles of sources within containers (articles, chapters)

- Capitalize all major words in titles

Books

1. Book by One Author

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Morrison, Toni. Beloved. Knopf, 1987.

2. Book by Two Authors

Format:

First Author Last Name, First Name, and Second Author First Name Last Name.
Title of Book. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Gladwell, Malcolm, and Michael Lewis. Thinking Fast and Slow. Penguin, 2020.

3. Book by Three or More Authors

Format:

First Author Last Name, First Name, et al. Title of Book. Publisher, Year

Example:

Johnson, Sarah, et al. Climate Change and Society. Cambridge UP, 2023.

Note: "et al." means "and others" - use for 3+ authors

4. Book with Editor(s)

Format:

Editor Last Name, First Name, editor. Title of Book. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Smith, John, editor. Modern American Poetry. Norton, 2022.

For multiple editors:

Anderson, Mary, and James Wilson, editors. Contemporary Fiction. Routledge, 2024.

5. Chapter or Essay in an Edited Book

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Chapter." Title of Book, edited by Editor First Name Last Name, Publisher, Year, pp. page range.

Example:

Davis, Angela. "Race and Feminism." Women's Studies Reader, edited by Rebecca Walker, Routledge, 2021, pp. 145-67.

6. E-book (Kindle, PDF, EPUB)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. E-book ed., Publisher, Year.

Example:

Rowling, J. K. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. E-book ed., Scholastic, 1998.

If accessed online with URL:

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Project Gutenberg, 2013, www.gutenberg.org/files/1342/1342-h/1342-h.htm.

7. Book in a Series

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Year. Series Name.

Example:

Tolkien, J. R. R. The Two Towers. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. The Lord of the Rings, vol. 2.

8. Sacred Text (Bible, Quran, Torah)

Format:

Title of Sacred Text. Version/Translation, Publisher, Year.

Example:

The Bible. New International Version, Zondervan, 2011.

The Quran. Translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem, Oxford UP, 2005.

Note: Do not italicize Bible, Quran, Torah, or other sacred text titles

Periodicals

9. Journal Article (Print)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Journal Name, vol. number, no. number, Year, pp. page range.

Example:

Martinez, Elena. "Digital Literacy in Higher Education." Journal of Educational Technology, vol. 45, no. 3, 2024, pp. 234-56.

10. Journal Article (Online with DOI)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Journal Name, vol. number, no. number, Year, pp. page range, DOI.

Example:

Thompson, David. "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies." Environmental Science Quarterly, vol. 78, no. 2, 2023, pp. 112-34, <https://doi.org/10.1234/esq.2023.5678>.

Note: DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is preferred over URL when available

11. Journal Article (Online without DOI)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Journal Name, vol. number, no. number, Year, pp. page range, URL.

Example:

Lee, Jennifer. "Social Media and Political Engagement." Media Studies Review, vol. 12, no. 4, 2024, pp. 89-107, www.mediastudiesreview.org/articles/2024/lee-social-media.

12. Magazine Article (Print)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Magazine Name, Day Month Year, pp. page range.

Example:

Goldberg, Michelle. "The Future of Democracy." The New Yorker, 15 Jan. 2025, pp. 34-41.

13. Magazine Article (Online)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Magazine Name, Day Month Year, URL.

Example:

Wallace-Wells, David. "Climate Change and the End of Civilization." New York Magazine, 10 July 2023, www.nymag.com/intelligencer/2023/07/climatechange-end-civilization.html.

14. Newspaper Article (Print)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Newspaper Name, Day Month Year, pp. page range.

Example:

Baker, Peter. "President Announces New Policy." The New York Times, 20 Dec. 2024, pp. A1+.

Note: Use "pp." for page numbers; "+" indicates article continues on non-consecutive pages

15. Newspaper Article (Online)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Newspaper Name, Day Month Year, URL.

Example:

Leonhardt, David. "The Pandemic's Economic Impact." The New York Times, 5 Jan. 2025, www.nytimes.com/2025/01/05/opinion/pandemic-economy.html.

16. Article with No Author

Format:

"Article Title." Publication Name, Date, Location.

Example:

"Global Warming Reaches Record High." Nature, vol. 615, no. 7950, 2024, pp.

12-15, <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature.2024.001>.

Online Sources

17. Website Page

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name (if available). "Page Title." Website Name, Publisher (if different from website name), Day Month Year published/updated, URL.

Example:

"Climate Change Effects." NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 15 Nov. 2024, climate.nasa.gov/effects/.

With author:

Smith, Rebecca. "Understanding Academic Writing." Purdue OWL, Purdue University, 3 Sept. 2024, owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing.html.

18. Entire Website

Format:

Editor Last Name, First Name, editor (if applicable). Title of Website.
Publisher, Year, URL.

Example:

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. Purdue University, 2024, owl.purdue.edu/.

19. Blog Post

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Post Title." Blog Name, Day Month Year, URL.

Example:

Rodriguez, Maria. "Five Tips for Effective Time Management." Study Success Blog, 12 Dec. 2024, www.studysuccess.com/blog/time-management-tips.

20. Social Media Post (Twitter/X)

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name [@username]. "Full text of post." Twitter/X,
Day Month Year, Time, URL.

Example:

Obama, Barack [@BarackObama]. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Twitter, 15 Jan. 2025, 3:45 p.m., twitter.com/BarackObama/status/123456789.

For posts without full text (images, videos):

National Geographic [@NatGeo]. "Arctic ice melting at unprecedented rates [Image]." Instagram, 10 Dec. 2024, www.instagram.com/p/ABC123XYZ/.

21. Wikipedia Article

Format:

"Article Title." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Day Month Year of last edit, URL.

Example:

"Global Warming." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 18 Dec. 2024, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming.

Note: Check with your instructor - many don't accept Wikipedia as a source

22. Online Video (YouTube)

Format:

Creator/Author. "Video Title." YouTube, uploaded by Username, Day Month Year, URL.

Example:

CrashCourse. "Introduction to Philosophy." YouTube, uploaded by CrashCourse, 8 Feb. 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABC123XYZ.

Media Sources

23. Film/Movie

Format:

Title of Film. Directed by Director First Name Last Name, Distributor, Year.

Example:

The Shawshank Redemption. Directed by Frank Darabont, Columbia Pictures, 1994.

With additional contributors:

Parasite. Directed by Bong Joon-ho, performances by Song Kang-ho and Lee Sun-kyun, CJ Entertainment, 2019.

24. TV Show Episode

Format:

"Episode Title." Title of TV Series, season number, episode number, Network, Day Month Year.

Example:

"Pilot." Breaking Bad, season 1, episode 1, AMC, 20 Jan. 2008.

Streaming platform:

"The One Where Monica Gets a Roommate." Friends, season 1, episode 1, NBC, 1994. Netflix, www.netflix.com/watch/12345678.

25. Podcast Episode

Format:

Host Last Name, First Name, host. "Episode Title." Podcast Name, season number (if applicable), episode number, Publisher/Production Company, Day Month Year, URL.

Example:

Maron, Marc, host. "Interview with President Obama." WTF with Marc Maron, episode 613, Earwolf, 22 June 2015, www.wtfpod.com/podcast/episode-613.

26. Song/Music Recording

Format:

Artist Last Name, First Name. "Song Title." Album Title, Record Label, Year.

Example:

Beyoncé. "Formation." Lemonade, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016.

Streaming:

Swift, Taylor. "Anti-Hero." Midnights, Republic Records, 2022. Spotify, open.spotify.com/track/ABC123XYZ.

27. Album

Format:

Artist Last Name, First Name. Album Title. Record Label, Year.

Example:

The Beatles. Abbey Road. Apple Records, 1969.

Other Sources 28.

Personal Interview

Format:

Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Personal interview. Day Month Year.

Example:

Johnson, Sarah. Personal interview. 15 Nov. 2024.

For published interviews:

Morrison, Toni. "The Art of Fiction." Interview by Elissa Schappell, The Paris Review, no. 128, 1993, pp. 82-125.

29. Lecture or Presentation

Format:

Speaker Last Name, First Name. "Presentation Title." Sponsoring Organization, Day Month Year, Location.

Example:

Smith, Robert. "Climate Change and Policy." Environmental Studies Lecture Series, 10 Oct. 2024, Harvard University, Cambridge.

30. Email

Format:

Sender Last Name, First Name. "Subject Line." Received by Recipient Name, Day Month Year.

Example:

Thompson, David. "Re: Research Project Questions." Received by Maria Rodriguez, 5 Dec. 2024.

31. Government Publication

Format:

Government Agency. Title of Publication. Publisher, Year, URL (if online)

Example:

United States, Department of Education. National Education Technology Plan.
US Government Printing Office, 2024, tech.ed.gov/netp/.

32. Dissertation or Thesis

Format:

Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Dissertation. Year. University Name,
PhD/MA dissertation.

Example:

Williams, Jennifer. The Impact of Social Media on Political Engagement. 2023. Stanford University, PhD
dissertation.

Published dissertation:

Chen, Michael. Educational Technology and Student Outcomes. 2022. Columbia University, PhD dissertation.
ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, www.proquest.com/dissertations/123456.

Special Formatting Notes

Multiple Works by Same Author

List alphabetically by title. Use three hyphens (---) for repeated author names:

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Knopf, 1987.

---. *Song of Solomon*. Knopf, 1977.

---. *Sula*. Knopf, 1973.

Works with No Author

Alphabetize by the first word of the title (ignore A, An, The):

"Climate Change Effects." NASA, 15 Nov. 2024, climate.nasa.gov/effects/.

Works with No Publication Date

Use "n.d." for no date:

Smith, John. "Understanding Research Methods." Academic Writing Guide, n.d.,
www.academicwriting.com/research-methods.

Abbreviations Used in MLA

- **ed.** = edition or edited by
 - **eds.** = editors
 - **et al.** = and others (for 3+ authors)
 - **n.d.** = no date
 - **n.p.** = no publisher
 - **p.** = page
 - **pp.** = pages
 - **trans.** = translated by
 - **UP** = University Press
 - **vol.** = volume
 - **no.** = number
-

Quick Reference Guide

Basic Book

Author. Title. Publisher, Year.

Journal Article

Author. "Article Title." Journal, vol. #, no. #, Year, pp. ##-##.

Website

Author. "Page Title." Site Name, Date, URL.

Online Article

Author. "Title." Publication, Date, URL or DOI.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

✗ **Wrong:** Forgetting to italicize book and journal titles

✓ **Right:** *Book Title* and *Journal Name*

✗ **Wrong:** Using periods in URLs

✓ **Right:** www.example.com (no period at end unless ending sentence)

✗ **Wrong:** Writing out "pages" instead of "pp."

✓ **Right:** pp. 45-67

✗ **Wrong:** Including "http://" or "https://" in URLs

✓ **Right:** www.example.com or doi.org/10.1234/example

✗ **Wrong:** Not using hanging indent

✓ **Right:** First line flush left, subsequent lines indented 0.5"

✗ **Wrong:** Single-spacing entries

✓ **Right:** Double-space everything in Works Cited

Works Cited Page Formatting

Page Setup:

- Title: "Works Cited" (centered, no bold, italics, or underline)
- Double-space everything
- Use hanging indent for each entry
- Alphabetize by first word of entry
- Continue page numbering from essay

Example Works Cited Page:

Works Cited

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Knopf, 1987.

Smith, John. "Understanding Research Methods." *Academic Writing Guide*, 15 Nov. 2024, www.academicwriting.com/research-methods.

"Climate Change Effects." NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 10 Dec. 2024, climate.nasa.gov/effects/.

Capitalization Rules

Title Case (for all titles in MLA):

- Capitalize first and last words
- Capitalize all major words
- Do NOT capitalize: a, an, the, and, but, or, for, nor, at, by, for, from, in, into, of, on, to, with (unless first or last word)

Examples:

- ✓ *The Catcher in the Rye*
 - ✓ "A Study of Modern Education"
 - ✓ *To Kill a Mockingbird*
-

Container Concept Explained

MLA 9th edition uses "containers" for sources within sources:

Example 1: Article in a Journal (online)

Author. "Article Title." [SOURCE]

Journal Name, [CONTAINER]

vol. #, no. #, Year, pp. ##-##, [LOCATION IN CONTAINER]

Database Name. [SECOND CONTAINER - if accessed through database]

Example 2: Episode in TV Series (streaming)

"Episode Title." [SOURCE] Series Name, [FIRST CONTAINER] season #, episode #, Network, Year.

Netflix. [SECOND CONTAINER]

Additional Resources

Need help with:

- In-text citations? Check our [MLA In-Text Citation Guide](#)
- Paper formatting? See our [MLA Format Paper Guide](#)
- Comparing styles? Visit our [APA vs MLA Comparison](#)

Official MLA Resources:

- [MLA Handbook \(9th Edition\)](#)
- [MLA Style Center: style.mla.org](#)
- [Purdue OWL MLA Guide: owl.purdue.edu/owl/mla](#)

Checklist for Works Cited Page

- Page titled "Works Cited" (centered, plain text)
- All entries double-spaced
- Hanging indent for all entries (0.5")
- Entries alphabetized by first word
- Book/journal titles italicized
- Article/chapter titles in quotation marks
- All major words in titles capitalized
- Publisher information included for books
- URLs included for online sources (without http://)
- DOIs included when available
- Access dates included when required
- Page numbers included for print sources
- Proper punctuation throughout

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This guide covers the most common source types. For unusual sources or complex citation questions, consult the official MLA Handbook (9th edition) or visit the MLA Style Center at style.mla.org.

Need your paper written with perfect MLA citations? Our expert writers ensure every source is formatted correctly. [Get started today](#)

