

MLA BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS (END-TEXT CITATIONS)

MLA is broken into three parts:

- 1) The format/page setup
- 2) The parenthetical or in-text citations which appear inside of the text (after quotes, paraphrases, and summaries), and
- 3) The bibliographic citations, which appear at the end of the text (which usually contain important information to help you find the original source of the quote, paraphrase, or summary).

Bibliographic citations (also called End-Text citations), which are typically located on the last page of your text, also called your Works Cited page, are elements of the source documentation process which helps us to find the original source of information.

To create a bibliographic citation, we need some information:

- Who is the author of the source?
- What is the title of the source?
- How was the source published?
- Where did the source originate?
- When was the source created and/or published?

This information is then put into a formula....

CORE ELEMENTS (THE BASIS OF MLA'S BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS)

MLA's formula follows a specific pattern, which is key to creating effective bibliographic citations.

Simply follow the formula:

The "Core Elements" of the formula are:

- 1) Author.
- 2) Title of the Source.
- 3) Title of the Container,
- 4) Other contributors,
- 5) Version,
- 6) Number,
- 7) Publisher,
- 8) Publication Date,
- 9) Location (as in page numbers -or- possibly a Uniform Resource Locator or Digital Object Identifier).

These core elements represent a single container, which means the Source is located in one place (like an website, a book, etc.)

Note the punctuation which appears after each element (either a comma or a period). This punctuation help us to differentiate the different elements.

BOOKS

If I were writing about a book, then I would locate these elements (in order of important according to MLA) to create my bibliographic citation for my Works Cited page.

Thus, following the “Core Elements” and input these elements into the formula, we can create the citations for items like books.

- 1) Author. _____> Naomi Wolf
- 2) Title of the Source. _____> The Beauty Myth
- 3) Title of the Container, _____>
- 4) Other contributors, _____>
- 5) Version, _____> 2nd. Edition
- 6) Number, _____>
- 7) Publisher, _____> Harper Perennial
- 8) Publication Date, _____> 2002
- 9) Location _____>

Sample: (the bibliographic citation)

Wolf, Naomi. The Beauty Myth. 2nd Ed., Harper Perennial, 2002.

Here is another example of a book:

- 1) Author. _____> Tom Wolfe
- 2) Title of the Source. _____> The Right Stuff
- 3) Title of the Container, _____>
- 4) Other contributors, _____>
- 5) Version, _____>
- 6) Number, _____>
- 7) Publisher, _____> Farrar, Straus, and Giroux
- 8) Publication Date, _____> 1979
- 9) Location _____>

Sample: (the bibliographic citation)

Wolfe, Tom. The Right Stuff. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1979.

WEBSITES W/ ARTICLES

What about websites and/or journals with articles? We use the same process.

- 1) Author. _____> Beth McMurtie
- 2) Title of the Source. _____> “How to Reconnect with Students and Strengthen Your Remote Course” (the article)

- 3) Title of the Container, _____> The Chronicle of Higher Education (a periodical -> a journal)
- 4) Other contributors, _____>
- 5) Version, _____>
- 6) Number, _____>
- 7) Publisher, _____>
- 8) Publication Date, _____> April 9, 2020
- 9) Location (as in URL) _____> [chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461](https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461)

Sample: (the bibliographic citation)

McMurtie, Beth. "How to Reconnect with Students and Strengthen Your Remote Course." The Chronicle of Higher Education, 09 April 2020, [chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461](https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461).

Notice how the Uniform-Resource-Locator (or URL) appears at the end with a period to indicate the end of the citation.

WHAT IF: NO AUTHOR

In the absence of an author, you can start with the title:

"How to Reconnect with Students and Strengthen Your Remote Course." The Chronicle of Higher Education, 09 April 2020, [chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461](https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Reconnect-With-Students/248461).

TITLES: ITALICS OR QUOTATION MARKS?

We use italics for longer or inclusive works, even visual works and long musical compositions: books, edited collections, paintings, albums, etc.

We use quotation marks for shorter works, even poetry, and short musical compositions, such as journal articles, short stories, poetry, songs, etc.

SIMPLE WEBSITES

"iPad Pro." 2020, [apple.com/ipad-pro/](https://www.apple.com/ipad-pro/).

Notice how without an author, we start with the Title of the Source. Consequently, if you can identify a corporate author (or the name of an organization), you may incorporate the use of their name:

CORPORATE AUTHORS

Apple. "iPad Pro." 2020, [apple.com/ipad-pro/](https://www.apple.com/ipad-pro/).

The key is to find as many "Core Elements" of the source as possible and implement this information for the sake of the reader/researcher.

ARTICLES FROM A JOURNAL

Sample:

Alcoff, Linda, and Laura Gray. "Survivor Discourse: Transgression or Recuperation?"
Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society, University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Note the mention of the container, which is the name of a journal (e.g., Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society).

ITEMS FROM COLLECTIONS AND/OR DATABASES (ONLINE AND IN-PRINT)

These items contain two containers (one for the main document) and one for the collection, whether that collection is an edited collection (like an edited book) or an online database.

CONTAINER 1 (document only)

- 1) Author. _____> Edgar Allan Poe
- 2) Title of the Source. _____> The Masque of the Red Death
- 3) Title of the Container, _____> The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe
- 4) Other contributors, _____> Editor, James A. Harrison
- 5) Version, _____> Vol.4
- 6) Number, _____>
- 7) Publisher, _____> Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing
- 8) Publication Date, _____>1902
- 9) Location (as in page numbers)_____> pp.250-258

CONTAINER 2 (database)

- 1) Author.
- 2) Title of the Source.
- 3) Title of the Container, _____> HathiTrust Digital Library
- 4) Other contributors,
- 5) Version,
- 6) Number,
- 7) Publisher,
- 8) Publication Date,
- 9) Location (as in URL/DOI)_____>
babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=cooo.31924079574368;view=1up;seq=266.

Sample:

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Masque of the Red Death." The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe, edited by James A. Harrison, vol. 4, Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing, 1902, pp.250-58. HathiTrust Digital Library,
babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=cooo.31924079574368;view=1up;seq=266.

Note: The location: pp.250-58. Also, note the second title of the Container: HathiTrust Digital Library

SECOND CONTAINERS

As seen above, a source like an article, short story, poem, or other text appears in a larger collection. In this case, you may have “Second” Containers, Dates, etc.

EPIISODES FROM TELEVISION SHOWS

CONTAINER 1

- 1) Author. _____>
- 2) Title of the Source. _____> The Family Dog
- 3) Title of the Container, _____> Amazing Stories
- 4) Other contributors, _____>
- 5) Version, _____>
- 6) Number, _____> Season 2, Episode 4
- 7) Publisher, _____>
- 8) Publication Date, _____> June 23, 1993
- 9) Location _____>

CONTAINER 2

- 1) Author. _____>
- 2) Title of the Source. _____>
- 3) Title of the Container, _____> Amazon Prime Video
- 4) Other contributors, _____>
- 5) Version, _____>
- 6) Number, _____>
- 7) Publisher, _____>
- 8) Publication Date, _____>
- 9) Location _____> [amazon.com/Family-Dog/dp/B078X1KDHP](https://www.amazon.com/Family-Dog/dp/B078X1KDHP)

Sample:

“The Family Dog.” Amazing Stories, season 2, episode 4, 23 June 1993. Amazon Prime Video, [amazon.com/Family-Dog/dp/B078X1KDHP](https://www.amazon.com/Family-Dog/dp/B078X1KDHP).

HOW DO I LIST THE AUTHOR?

Sample: (one author)

Elbow, Peter.

Sample: (two authors)

Elbow, Peter, and Geneva Smitherman.

Sample: (three or more)

Elbow, Peter, et al.

HOW DO I LIST EDITORS?

Sample:

Elbow, Peter, Editor.

TRANSLATORS

Sample:
Christensen, Tammy, translator.

VERSIONS

Sample:
Expanded ed.,
Updated ed.,
6th ed.,
unabridged version,
director's cut,
version 2.1,

NUMBERS

Sample:
vol. 2, no.1 (volume/year and issue number)

HOW DO I LIST THE DOI OR URL?

The Digital Object Identifier Number (or DOI) may be used in place of a Uniform Resource Locator (or URL).

Sample:

doi: 10.1080/19407882.2014.987089

Otherwise, list the URL.

Sample: (typically, no http: is required)

oerlibrary.com/documents/historicaltext/hawthorne/blithdale.html