

OVERVIEW: Updates from the
MLA Handbook
8th edition (2016)

The types of sources we use in research projects are always evolving, and the new *MLA Handbook* demonstrates an approach to simplify the task of citing them. Instead of asking writers to learn unique formats for each type of source, *MLA style* emphasizes citing traits shared across sources and formatting these traits in consistent ways. These are the nine core elements to consider when creating entries for your list of works cited; every source contains some combination—but not necessarily all—of them.

The Core Elements of a Works-Cited Entry

1. Author	Who created the source—or whose work on the source you choose to emphasize first and foremost.
2. Title of source	The title of the specific source you are citing. This could be a whole book or a short poem within it, if your focus is on that poem.
3. Title of container	The title of a larger source containing the source you are citing. When a source stands alone (like a whole film or novel), there is no container. When an essay (source) is published in a journal (larger source), then that journal is called a container.
4. Other contributors	Noteworthy contributors to the work, such as editors, translators, or performers.
5. Version	Description of a source that appears in more than one version, such as a book in revised editions.
6. Number	Number indicating the source's place in a sequence, such as volume and issue numbers for journals, or season and episode numbers for television shows.
7. Publisher	Organization that produces or sponsors the source, delivering it to readers.
8. Publication date	When the source was made available to the public. This might be a year, a month, a specific date, or even a specific time.
9. Location	Where to find a specific source. This could be page numbers for print sources, a URL, or DOI for online sources, or the location of a lecture or performance.



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