

Creating a List of Works Cited

According to the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook, each Works Cited entry should include as much of the following information as you can find about each source you're using. The information should be in the following order and include the listed punctuation.

- Creator.
- Title of source.
- Title of container,
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location.

No matter what type of source—a book, a website, an Instagram post, or whatever else you refer to—follow the same list of elements.

What do each of these works cited entry elements mean? Let's look at the following to understand a little better.

Core Element and Punctuation	Definition	Details	Rules and Examples
Creator.	<p>The creator is the person or group responsible for creating the aspect of the work upon which you are focusing. In most cases, this is the author. However, it could be a performer, director, editor, translator, or a variety of other roles.</p> <p>Additionally, a creator may be something other than a person's name. It might be an organization or governmental agency, or it could even be someone's pseudonym. Sometimes, the creator might be plural.</p>	<p>If you are writing about a book by John Steinbeck and analyzing his words, you use Steinbeck here.</p> <p>If you are writing about a movie starring Matt Damon and focusing on his performance not the quality of the film overall, you would put Damon here.</p> <p>If you writing about a website that the United States Department of Agriculture created, with no other listed author, you would use the United States Department of Agriculture here.</p> <p>If you are quoting a tweet or comment or blog entry, etc, you use whatever handle the writers use to describe themselves.</p> <p>If there is more than one creator, follow the rules to the right.</p>	<p>1) Single writer = last name, first. Ex. Steinbeck, John.</p> <p>2) Single performer/editor/translator, etc = last name, first, role. Ex. Damon, Matt, actor. Ex. Richardson, Kate, translator. Ex. Sandeep Soorya, editor.</p> <p>3) Single organization/institution, etc = name of institution. Ex. Scripps Clinic. Ex. United States Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>4) Pseudonym = the handle. Ex. Luv3lyJuly</p> <p>5) Two creators (writers translators, etc) = last name, first and first last. Ex. Kuhel, Anthony and Latha Valluripalli</p> <p>6) Three or more creators = last name, et al. (et al. is Latin for "and others") Ex. Chu, Leroy, et al. editors. Ex. Rodrigues, Francisco, et al.</p>

Title.	The title of the work you are examining.	<p>If you are examining a work that is part of a whole (poem, song, article, episode, etc), frame the title with quotation marks.</p> <p>If you are writing about a work that stands alone, is a complete work in itself (a movie, website, painting, building, etc), italicize the title.</p> <p>If you are citing a tweet or similar short message, write the full text without changes as the title, and enclose the text in quotation marks.</p>	<p>Part of a whole = “. . .” Ex. “How to Start Tomato Plants.” Ex. “Reflections on <i>Top Gun</i>.”</p> <p>A whole/complete work = <i>italicize</i>. Ex. <i>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</i> Ex. <i>Of Mice and Men</i>.</p> <p>Tweet or similar= “Complete text.” Ex. “No visible damage in the Portola District but experiencing aftershocks. #sfeearthquake #earthquakereport.”</p>
Title of Container,	The source you are examining may be part of a bigger work. That larger work is a container of the smaller work.	<p>The container may be an anthology, blog, music album, television series, newspaper, or any other source that houses smaller texts.</p> <p>This is important: Many times, a container is housed inside another container. For example, you may be accessing an article from <i>The New York Times</i> (first container) that you find on the EBCSCO database (second container). You must identify as much information the text provides about each container.</p> <p>If the work you are examining stands alone and is not part of a bigger work, skip this element.</p>	Title of container = <i>italicize</i> , Ex. <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> , Ex. <i>The Huffington Post</i> ,
Other contributors,	Other contributors are any other groups or organizations that assisted the creator in some way with the creation of the work.	<p>Identify the role the other contributor(s) had in the production of the work and write that before the name. For example, you might write adapted by or narrated by.</p> <p>If the work you are citing does not have any other contributors than the one(s) you listed as creator, skip this element.</p>	Other contributor = description of role by name of person, Ex. Translated by Eric Johnson, Ex. Narrated by Emilio Estevez,
Version,	This refers to versions of works released in multiple formats.	<p>Editions often describe the versions of book. If so, abbreviate the word to ed. Other phrases may appear here as well, such as “director’s cut” or “Spanish Language version.”</p> <p>If the work you are citing does not have any other versions, skip this element.</p>	Ex. New International Version, Ex. Updated ed., Ex. 9 th ed.,
Number,	This refers to texts that are broken into parts.	Academic journals, comic books, and seasons and episodes of	Ex. vol. 3, Ex. no. 28,

		<p>television series are often numbered. Sometimes encyclopedias have multiple volumes as well.</p> <p>If using, abbreviate the word volume to vol. and the word number to no.</p> <p>If the work you are citing is not one volume of a set, skip this element.</p>	<p>Ex. vol. 2, no. 3 Ex. season 3, episode 11,</p>
Publisher,	This refers to the organization that makes the source available to the public.	Publishing companies, production companies, museums, universities, online networks and others can be publishers.	<p>Ex. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, Ex. Sony Pictures Classic, Ex. Tate Modern Art Museum of London,</p>
Publication date,	This refers to the date the source you are using is published in the format you are using.	<p>Use the date that the source you are using was published. If there is more than one date, use the date that corresponds with the format you are using. For example, if you are using an online version of an article that also appears in print, use only the date that corresponds to the online version.</p> <p>Sometimes only a year will be listed, sometimes a complete date. Use the most complete information you can find, and list it as day abbreviated month year (eg 28 Mar. 2011).</p>	<p>Ex. 29 Aug. 2009, Ex. May 2015, Ex. 2011,</p>
Locations.	This refers to the place—physical or virtual—others can find the text you are citing.	<p>If you are citing a book, the location is a page number or range of page numbers.</p> <p>If you are citing a physical item that can be experienced in person—for example, a painting—the location is an actual geographic location—for example, the name of the museum that houses the painting.</p> <p>If you are citing a website, the location is the URL (minus http:// or https://)</p>	<p>Ex. p. 85. Ex. pp. 85-93. Ex. Museum of Jurassic Technology, Culver City. Ex. Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles. Ex. www.makesmesmirk.com/2015/joke-failures.</p>

So what does that look like when we put it all together? Here are a couple examples of complete Works Cited entries.

Schwartz, Katrina. "Launching a Makerspace: Lessons Learned from a Transformed School Library." *Mind/Shift: How we will learn*, KQED, 31 Jul. 2016, ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/07/31/launching-a-makerspace-lessons-learned-from-a-transformed-school-library/.

In this example, Katrina Schwartz is the creator, “Launching a Makerspace: Lessons Learned from a Transformed School Library” is the title, and *Mind/Shift : How we will learn* is the container. The website had no other contributors, versions, or numbers. The publishing organization is KQED, who published it on July 31st, 2016, and the listed URL identifies its virtual location.

Smith, Patti. “Love, Frida.” *Smithsonian Magazine*, vol. 46, issue 9, Smithsonian Institution, Jan. 2016. pp. 112-138. *Academic Search Premier*, EBSCO Industries, web.a.ebscohost.com/src_ic/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=1cbb27f5-f0a2-417e-bd58-7427272da80b%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4204&bdata=#AN=112184285&db=aph.

In this example, Patti Smith is the creator of the text. *Smithsonian Magazine* is the first container, there are no other contributors, and the text appears in volume 46, issue 9. Smithsonian Institution published the text in January 2016 on pages 112-138 of the magazine. The database *Academic Search Premier* is the second container; for this container, there are no other contributors, versions, or numbers. EBSCO Industries is the publisher of *Academic Search Premier*, no date is provided for when the database added the text to its collection, and the URL is the text’s virtual location.

To put the Works Cited page together:

- Keep the same formatting as you’ve used throughout the paper (1” margin all around, size 12 font, double spaced with no extra space, last name and page number in right corner header).
- Title the page Works Cited in the center of the first line.
- List the sources in alphabetical order based on the first word of each entry
- Reverse indent each entry. In other words, entries should be shaped like Oklahoma.