



UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

cultivating purpose-driven writers, communicators, & influencers
write + revise + persuade

MLA Style Guide: Works Cited

Elizabeth Perry

The purpose of this article is to show students how to correctly format MLA Works Cited pages according to the guidelines in the MLA Handbook (9th ed.).

Introduction

While the Modern Language Association is the format used most often in English Studies, Foreign Languages and Literature, and other humanities-oriented disciplines, all fields of study require citations for academic writing. Correct citations increase the writer's credibility, avoid potential plagiarism accusations, and help readers further their knowledge by following the writer's research. Making sure the sources in your Works Cited page are accurately cited and properly formatted is vital. Though working with MLA citations can cause understandable apprehension, the correct format can be learned and practiced with ease.

Works Cited

The bibliography will always appear at the end of your paper, starting on a new page. "Works Cited" should be affixed at the top and center of the page. As with the rest of your paper, your Works Cited page should be double-spaced and written in 12-point Times New Roman font. MLA also uses the hanging indentation format, which means the second and all subsequent lines of a citation are indented 0.5" from the left margin.

MLA citations must include at least four elements: authors, title, date, and publication information. Location means where your quotes or evidence came from, which means including page numbers when applicable. Entries should be ordered alphabetically by author's last name. If there are more than two authors, name the first author and then use "et al." to reference the other writers. If you are citing from an online scholarly source, include the DOI (Digital Object Identifier). If the DOI is unavailable, use the URL.

Examples

MLA journal *article* citation:

Primary Contributors Title Container Title, Volume, Issue, Publication Date, Page Number(s). DOI.

Doe, John. "History of CBU and Establishment as a University." *Interesting Facts About CBU*, vol. 1, no. 4, May 2024, pp. 227-30. <https://doi.org/0000000/00000000000>

MLA *book* citation:

Author. Title. Edition, Publisher, Publication Date.

Doe, John. *History of CBU and Establishment as a University*. 2nd ed., Culpepper Press, 2024.

MLA website citation:

Author. Title Container Title, Publication Date, URL.

Office of Student Success. "UWC Appointments." May 2024,
calbaptist.mywconline.com/schedule/calendar?scheduleid=sc64e791ef275a7.

These are just a few examples of the most common citations. Please consult the [MLA Handbook, 9th Ed.](#), or [Purdue's OWL](#) for details regarding every kind of citation.

Conclusion

The Works Cited page is the last chance to make a positive impression on your readers because it lists your sources and builds your credibility as a serious researcher. One could even say it is the final argument of your paper. While creating your Works Cited page, remember to include each source, listing the four critical elements of a complete reference. MLA citations can be tricky at first, but with a little practice, they become easy ways to identify and organize your research.

Tips

1. Remember to format your Works Cited page like the rest of your paper: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman.
2. Identify what kind of source you are citing, and include the four elements (author, title, date, publication info) according to the proper format.
3. Practice working with citations to become more adept in creating them on your own, or visit some trusted citation-generating websites to help. Always double-check the details.

Works Consulted

McCombes, Shona. "How to Format Your MLA Works Cited Page." *Scribbr*, 5 Mar. 2024,
www.scribbr.com/mla/works-cited.

Purdue OWL. "MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format." *Purdue University*, 2024,
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html

"MLA Style Guide, 9th Edition. Formatting Your MLA Paper." *Taft College*. Last Updated 24 Mar 2022,
<https://lib.taftcollege.edu/c.php?g=628017&p=4381744>