MLA Works-Cited Lists

Section 1: Parts of a Work-Cited-List Entry

Works-cited entries generally conform to the following pattern:

Author. “Title of Source.” Title of Container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, location.

Here’s what the key terms mean:

- An **author** can be the person, people, organization, company, or government that created a work.
- A **title** is the “name” of your source. Titles of longer works or those containing smaller works appear in italics. However, titles of shorter works or those contained in a larger work appear in quotation marks.
- A **container** is a larger work or publication of which your source is a part (e.g. an anthology, a scholarly journal, a newspaper, a website, a television series, a database, etc.)
- A **contributor** is anyone who contributed to the source or container in a significant way (e.g. editors, illustrators, directors, performers, narrators, hosts, etc.)
- A **version** can be an edition of a book, a version of an app or website, a remaster of a game, a version of a film (for example, a director’s cut or extended version), and so on.
- A **number** can be a volume for a book, a volume and issue for a scholarly journal, an issue of a comic book, a season and episode for a TV show, etc.
- A **publisher** can be an actual publishing company, but it can also be a sponsoring organization of a website, a government agency, a film distribution company, a record company, a TV network, and so on.
- A **publication date** can be the most recent copyright year for a book, the month (or season) and year of a scholarly journal issue, the year a film was released, the last update of an online article, etc. If an online source lacks a publication date, you can provide your date of access at the end of the citation instead.
- A **location** is usually a page range for print sources and a DOI or URL for online sources. For some sources like paintings or live performances, the location can be an actual place (e.g. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; Neptune Theater, Seattle; etc.).

**Important:** Not every source will have every element. **Omit any elements that are missing in your source—except the title.** If a title is missing, provide your own description in its place.

Note: Aside from the basic elements of a citation, you can add **supplemental information** in two spots: right after your source’s title and at the end of the citation. For example, if you need to add a contributor who worked on your source but not its container, add their role and name after the source title. If you need to add a date of access or mode of publication, add that information at the end of the citation. Here are some examples:


Section 2: Sample Works-Cited Entries

**Basic Format for a Book**

**Work in an Anthology or Textbook**

**Graphic Novel**

**Article in a Journal/Magazine/Newspaper in an Online Database**
Scholarly journals often have both volume and issue numbers, magazines often have issue numbers only, and newspapers often have neither, but you should include what is available.

If your source has a DOI, format it as a URL with a protocol (http://) and include it after the database title. If your source has no DOI, use a stable URL/permalink if provided. Otherwise, you can copy the URL from your browser, leaving off any query strings. You can also remove the protocol (http://) unless you need it to create a functioning hyperlink. Also, *don't break URLs* by inserting spaces or punctuation.


**Article/Short Work Published Online**


**Video on a Sharing Site (such as YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)**

**Film**

**Photograph on a Website**
For an untitled photo, provide a descriptive title of your own without italics or quotation marks. Capitalize the first word of this description and any proper nouns.


**Song**

**Interview or Other Direct Communication**
Hassan, Ibrahim. Zoom interview with the author. 7 July 2021.
Kealoha, Kylie. Personal communication with the author. 10 Apr. 2020.

**Class Material**

**Law**

**Encyclopedia or Dictionary Online**

**Scripture**

**Social Media Post**
Use the full text of the post as the title or, if the post is long, use a shortened form (replace the omitted text with an ellipsis). To cite an image, provide your own description for the title.
Hamill, Mark [@HamillHimself]. “I have to admit MY jaw was on the floor when I learned Luke would be given one last hurrah . . . .” Twitter, 14 May 2021, twitter.com/HamillHimself/status/1393422736970629122.

**Video Game**
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This handout was created by the Writing Centers at YVC.
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