MLA has identified 9 core elements to place in a specific order in your citation. Instead of focusing on a source’s publication format (book, magazine, online article, etc.), identify the source’s core elements for your citation. Use an MLA Practice Template to help you identify elements. Pay attention to the punctuation after each element.

A source may be part of a larger whole, its container. An anthology is the container for an essay. A container also may be part of a second container. A journal article is in container 1 (the journal) and the journal is in container 2 (the database). If you have a source in two containers, include the relevant elements for container 2. Elements in the same container are separated by commas.

**General Format with Core Elements**

Author. Title of Source. Title of container, Other contributors (editor, translator, director), Version (edition), Number (vol., no.), Publisher, Publication date, Location (page no., URL, DOI). Title of second container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location of container.

**Note:** You may not need to include every element depending on your source.

**General Book Format**

Author. Title of Source. Other contributors, Version (edition), Publisher, Publication date.

**Book by Single Author**


**Book by Two Authors**


**Book by Three or More Authors**


**Note:** If there are more than two authors, cite only the first author and add *et al.* (“and others”).

**Work in an Anthology (Story, Essay, Poem, etc.)**

Author. “Title of Source.” Title of Container, Other contributors, Version, Publisher, Publication date, Location.


**Note:** For contributors, identify their roles (edited by, translated by). Use the abbreviation *p.* for one page or *pp.* for multiple pages.
General Format for Periodicals (Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers)
Author. "Title of Source." Title of Container, Version (edition), Number (vol., no.), Publication date, Location. Title of Second Container, Location.

Note: A newspaper may indicate an edition. Some magazines may also have a volume or issue number; include that information in your citation.

Journal Article—Print

Magazine Article—Print

Newspaper Article—Print

Journal Article—Database


Note: Use the permalink for the location. If the article has a digital object identifier (DOI), use the DOI.

General Format for a Website
Author. “Title of Source.” Title of Container, Publisher, Publication date, Location (URL). Optional element (Access date).

Article from a Website


Note: Omit http:// or https:// from the URL. Date of access is an optional element. Include a date of access if your source does not identify a publication date. Omit the site publisher if it is the same as the website’s name.

Additional Sources
Online Video Clip
Author. “Title of Source.” Title of Container, Other contributors (uploaded by), Publication date, Location (URL).

“Everything Wrong with The Room in 8 Minutes or Less.” YouTube, uploaded by CinemaSins, 29 Jan. 2013,youtu.be/mvuwldnG7c0.

Television Show Episode

Film

Personal Interview

Email Message
Hadfield, Christopher. “Space Odyssey.” Received by David R. Jones, 10 Jan. 2016.