The Modern Language Association
WORKS CITED

Based on the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Intended Uses and Disclaimers: Consultants do not provide copyediting services for citation styles. This worksheet is intended to help writers learn how to work with citations appropriately on their own. While it provides a basic overview of the MLA style, you will still need to look up each type of source you're working with in an MLA guide when formatting your references. Always check with your professor if you have questions!

Basic Formatting

Title your list of sources Works Cited (not References or Bibliography). The title should be centered at the top of the page in regular print (no bolding or underlining).

Double-space your entire list of sources without extra spaces between entries. Indent the second and subsequent lines five spaces from the left margin (hanging indentations).

Alphabatize your full list by author's last name and/or, for unauthored sources, the first word of the source. If the first word of the title is an article (A, An, The), alphabetize the entry based on the first word of the title that isn't A, An, or The.

Place periods after the first two elements of your entry, which will most often be the work's author and title. **(i.e., Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice.*)** Then, separate each layer of the third element with commas.

Required Layers of Bibliographic Information

The 8th edition of the MLA Handbook asks you to present three basic layers of bibliographic information on the Works Cited page.

1. **Authors' names**: Invert names so the last name appears first for single authors, and include the full first name when available. (**i.e. Austen, Jane**). For sources with two authors, only invert the first author's name (**i.e. Austen, Jane and Charlotte Brontë**). For sources with three or more authors, present only the first author's name (inverted) followed by a comma and "et al." (**i.e. Austen, Jane, et al.**)

2. **Titles**: This citation layer raises the question of whether a text is published on its own (like a novel), or as a document contained in a larger work (like an article in a newspaper). If the text is part of a larger whole, place its title in quotation marks. If the text is published on its own OR is the container for other texts, place its title in italics.

3. **Containers:** The MLA Handbook uses this word to refer to texts that contain other pieces of writing (i.e., a newspaper contains newspaper articles, etc.). Containers are often associated with other informational elements that can help readers locate your source. Those elements are listed below, in the order in which they should be presented. Separate each element with a comma. If some of these elements aren't available for your source, skip that layer and continue to the next.

a. Title of container
b. Other contributors
c. Version
d. Number
e. Publisher
f. Publication Date
g. Location

Book — Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice.* New York: Modern Library, 1995.

Journal Article — Howard, Rebecca M. "Plagiarisms, Authorships, and the Academic Death Penalty." *College English*, vol. 57, 1995, pp. 788-805.

4. **Second Container**: Print or already-existing audiovisual materials (like movies) may also be available on various websites. This includes journal articles that are available online via subscription service databases. The MLA Handbook considers these locations to be second "containers." Format the second container the same way you did the first.

Questions? Ask your consultant!

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