A Writer's Companion to
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA)

WORKS CITED

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

Intended Uses and Disclaimers: Please note that consultants do not provide copyediting services for citation styles. Instead, this worksheet is intended to help prompt writers to learn for themselves how to work with citations appropriately. This checklist provides you with some basic formatting rules, but once you apply these rules, you'll also need to look up each type of source that you're working with in an MLA guide. Always check with your professor if you have questions.

MLA's 2016 Update: With the release of the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook*, MLA made a significant shift in its approach to the Works Cited page. The new approach recognizes that it's sometimes difficult to identify a type of source—for instance, is a blog post from the *New York Times* more of a blog? Or more of a newspaper article?—and instead shifts the question from "what type of source is this?" to "what information is available for this source?" (i.e., author name, article title, publisher, etc). MLA citations are now built in layers: 9 of them, to be exact. Provide the information requested, in the order requested, as it is available. If a piece of information is missing, skip it and move on to the next.

Basic Formatting

- Your list of sources should be **titled** Works Cited (and not References or Bibliography).

- The title, Works Cited, is **centered** at the top of the page in **regular print** (no bolding or underlining).

- The entire list of sources is **double-spaced**, without extra spaces between entries. Moreover, the second and subsequent lines for each entry are **indented** five spaces. In other words, you're formatting each entry with a hanging indentation.

- Your full list is **alphabetized** by author's last name and/or, for unauthored sources, the first word of the title. 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* an article. (So, both *Monsters* and *The Monsters* count as "M" as you're alphabetizing.)

- Your Works Cited page **only includes** references actually **cited in the text of your paper**. (A Works Consulted list, that includes all sources cited and consulted, may be included as an additional resource.)

- Punctuating entries: The first two elements of each Works Cited entry—the author and title—each end with a period (i.e., Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice.*). The third element of a Works Cited entry may contain a number of layers; each of those layered items are separated by a comma.

Layers of Bibliographic Information: Three to Four Main Elements
The 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* asks you to present three basic layers of bibliographic information on the Works Cited page, each separated by—and ending with—a period.

1. *Authors' names*. These are **inverted** with the last name appearing first for **single authors**; include the **full first name** where available (i.e., Medley, Arthur). For sources with **two authors**, the first name is inverted; the second name is not (i.e., Medley, Arthur and Elizabeth Harmony). For sources with **three or more authors**, present the first author listed (last name first), followed by a comma and "et al." (i.e., Medley, Arthur, 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 a document in a larger whole,* place the title in **quotation marks**. *If the text is published on its own OR is the container for other texts (newspaper articles, short stories, etc),* place the title in **italics.**

3. *Containers:* The 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* uses the word "containers" to refer to texts that contain other pieces of writing (i.e., other, shorter texts, such as newspaper articles, journal articles, etc). Containers are often associated with other informational elements that can help readers locate the source. Those elements are listed below, in the order in which they should be presented, and are separated by commas. This entire "container" section unites all the layers into a single unit, with a period at the end. If some of these elements aren't available for the source you're citing, skip that layer and continue to the next.

   a. *Title of container*,
   b. Other contributors (i.e., editors, translators, directors, illustrators), introduced with a verb that describes the contribution
       For example: directed by Joss Whedon,
   c. Version (i.e., an edition, a director's cut, an abridged version, etc)
       For example: director's cut,
   d. Number (i.e., volume and or issue numbers, season and episode numbers, etc)
       For example: vol. 5, issue 3,
   e. Publisher (i.e., Provide the name of the organization that published the work. In print books, that information can be found on the title page. On websites, it can often be found in the copyright notice at the bottom of the home page, or on the "About" page.
       For example, Utah UP,
   f. Publication date (i.e., For texts published once—like books—provide the year of publication. For texts published periodically—like newspapers and scholarly journals—provide more specific information, as it's available (i.e., the season, month, and/or day, in addition to the year. Note that the names of months are abbreviated in MLA),
       For example, 3 Aug. 2013,
   g. Location (i.e., In a print source, "location" refers to a page number, verse, etc: the location of the source within the document. In an online source, "location" refers to a URL or DOI),
       For example, pp. 33-52.

4. *Second Container*: Print or already-existing audio/visual materials (like television series episodes or movies) may also be available on various websites (including journal articles that are available online via subscription service databases). These web locations are considered a second "container" in MLA. This second container follows the same format as the first (*title of container*, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, and location).

MLA LAYERING SAMPLES
SINGLE CONTAINER SOURCES

Book (print version)

1.Author.	Morrison, Toni.
2. Title.	*Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination.*
3. Container	
a. Title of container,	(NOTE: This text is published on its own. No container)
b. Other contributors,	
c. Version,	
d. Number,	
e. Publisher,	Vintage Books,
f. Publication date,	1992.
g. Location.	

Scholarly journal article (print version). Note the placement of commas and periods.

1.Author.	Howard, Rebecca M.
2. Title.	"Plagiarisms, Authorships, and the Academic Death Penalty."
3. Container	
b. Title of container,	*College English,*
b. Other contributors,	
c. Version,	
d. Number,	vol. 57,
e. Publisher,	
f. Publication date,	1995,
g. Location.	pp. 788-805.

SECOND CONTAINERS (ALREADY EXISTING MATERIALS MAY BE FOUND IN A SECOND CONTAINER)

Television series, episode found on Hulu

1. Author.

2. Title.   "Hush."

3. Container

  c. Title of container,   *Buffy the Vampire Slayer,*

  b. Other contributors,   created by Joss Whedon, performed by Sarah M. Gellar,

  c. Version,

  d. Number,   season 4, episode 10

  e. Publisher,   Mutant Enemy

  f. Publication date,   1999.

  g. Location.

4. Second Container   (NOTE: Already existing materials may be "nested" in a second container)

  a. Title of container,   *Hulu,*

  b. Other contributors,

  c. Version,

  d. Number,

  e. Publisher,

  f. Publication date,

  g. Location.   www.hulu.com/watch/158788

OPEN TEMPLATE: YOUR TURN!

1. Author.

2. Title.

3. Container

    e.   Title of container,

    b. Other contributors,

    c. Version,

    d. Number,

    e. Publisher,

    f. Publication date,

    g. Location.

4.Second Container   (NOTE: Already existing materials may be "nested" in a second container)

    b.   Title of container,

    b. Other contributors,

    c. Version,

    d. Number,

    e. Publisher,

    f. Publication date,

    g. Location.