

The Cengage Essential Reference Card to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

OVERVIEW: Updates from the
MLA Handbook
 8th edition (2016)

The types of sources we use in research projects are always evolving, and the new *MLA Handbook* demonstrates an approach to simplify the task of citing them. Instead of asking writers to learn unique formats for each type of source, MLA style emphasizes citing traits shared across sources and formatting these traits in consistent ways. These are the nine core elements to consider when creating entries for your list of works cited; every source contains some combination—but not necessarily all—of them:

The Core Elements of a Works-Cited Entry

1. Author.	Who created the source—or whose work on the source you choose to emphasize first and foremost.
2. Title of source.	The title of the specific source you are citing. This could be a whole book or a short poem within it, if your focus is on that poem.
3. Title of container.	The title of a larger source containing the source you are citing. When a source stands alone (like a whole film or novel), there is no container. When an essay (source) is published in a journal (larger source), then that journal is called a <i>container</i> .
4. Other contributors.	Noteworthy contributors to the work, such as editors, translators, or performers.
5. Version.	Description of a source that appears in more than one version, such as a book in revised editions.
6. Number.	Number indicating the source's place in a sequence, such as volume and issue numbers for journals, or season and episode numbers for television shows.
7. Publisher.	Organization that produces or sponsors the source, delivering it to readers.
8. Publication date.	When the source was made available to the public. This might be a year, a month, a specific date, or even a specific time.
9. Location.	Where to find a specific source. This could be page numbers for print sources, a URL or DOI for online sources, or the location of a lecture or performance.

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Reviews

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(Louie Will)

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