The MLA Handbook (8th Ed.) takes a common-sense approach to citation. Instead of setting out separate rules for a range of formats, it recommends instead a “universal set of guidelines”, which writers can apply as appropriate to cite any type of source. These guidelines include a set of “core elements” to follow in the order below. The OWL at Purdue explains that “If you have included these elements [where available] and assembled them in a way that makes sense to your readers, then your works cited entries will be consistent and thorough.”

Entries on your “Works Cited” page

1. **Author.** Last name, first name. Who is responsible for this material? Novel – the writer. Film – director. No author? Would it be appropriate to use the organization as author? No? Then start with the title and use a brief version in your in-text citation.

2. **Title of Source.** i.e. title of book. For an outside title use *italics*. For an essay or article, things “inside” a container such as an anthology or a newspaper, use “quotation marks.”

3. **Title of Container,** i.e. title of journal, newspaper, anthology that the item you are citing appears inside (use *italics*).

4. **Other contributors,** (i.e. editors of anthologies, or editors of special editions of authored works)

5. **Version,** (i.e. for second edition: 2nd ed.)

6. **Number,** i.e. vol 12, no. 1 or season 2, episode 1

7. **Publisher,** Don’t use business words like Company or Co. or Ltd. DO Use abbreviations like U and P and UP for academic presses.

8. **Publication date,** (year: give season/month also if appropriate/available)

9. **Location.** Don’t give city for books. Give URL for web sources *(without http:// or https://)* Use a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number instead if available. Give page range for articles, chapters etc. where available.

10. **Container 2 details,** if applicable, and useful, for example the database (Such as JSTOR) containing a journal which contains an article). **Note:** we no longer need to give format [web] or [print].

Optional: Things like date of original publication, if useful (after title, say, 1848); Or description of unusual type of thing – like Transcript - place at end of entry. Only give date of access if you think your source is likely to change.

In text Citation

MLA is an author/page system. The link from the cited material to the **Works Cited** page is made with the author’s surname plus the page. For example, **Red is preferred (Smith 10)**. If there is no author you must use whatever you put in its place FIRST in your works cited entry (usually the title - abbreviated), because that is how we make the link between the two. If you use the author’s name in a signal phrase you don’t need it in the parenthetical citation as well, as follows: **Smith explains, “Red is the nicest colour” (10).**
Examples

No need for an exhaustive list because MLA expect you to be able to build your own logically and consistently from the core elements above.

**Book. Single author.**


*In text* (Tan 6) if there were two authors we’d give both (Tan & Smith 6) If more, (Tan et al. 6)

In this case the publisher, Putnam, sits in the location field.

**Book. Multiple authors.**


*In text* (Gabel et al. 63)

**Article from a scholarly journal found online**


*In text* (Belau) or (Hill 92)

Note for Belau the use of database the article was accessed by (Project Muse). Use if useful. Also note the use of the URL (web address). BUT we would use a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) instead, if available, as for Hill. Note also that the Belau document was not paginated, so we simply omit that part.

**Article from a website**


*In text* (Shiva)

“Native Web” is the title of the website, the “container” for the article “bioethics...”