MLA Works Cited

This handout provides basic information on the new MLA guidelines for a works cited page. For more comprehensive details, we recommend using the *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.) or the Purdue OWL “MLA Formatting and Style Guide” online.

**FORMATTING**

- Make sure the whole page is double-spaced.
- Put the words “Works Cited” at the top of the page and centered.
- Provide the entries of your sources in alphabetical order.
- Begin each entry at the very left of the page.
- Indent the lines after the first line of each entry to create what is called a “hanging indent.”

**SOURCE ENTRIES**

The following core elements should be identified for any type of source in the order which is shown. Omit any element that is not applicable to your source. Each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown below.

**Core Elements:**

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

**EXPLANATION AND DETAILS OF CORE ELEMENTS**

**Author:**

Begin entry with author’s last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name. When a source has two authors, include them in the order in which they are presented in the work. Record the first name as described above, follow it with a comma and *and*, and give the second name in normal order. When a source has three or more authors, record the first name as described above, and follow it with a comma and *et al*.

Examples:

Baron, Naomi S.

Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich.

Burdick, Anne, et al.
Title of source:
A title is placed in quotation marks if the source is part of a larger work, such as an article within a journal or a poem within a collection. A title is italicized if the source is independent such as a book.
Examples:


Title of container:
The container is the larger whole that holds the source such as a newspaper that holds multiple articles or an anthology that holds a collection of essays. The title of the container is usually italicized and is followed by a comma.
Examples:


Other contributors:
Other contributors refer to people other than the author who are credited as contributors to the source such as editors or translators. Precede each name (or group of names) with a description of the role. When three or more contributors perform the same function, give the name that is listed first and follow it with *et al*.
Example:

Version:
If the source is a version of a work released in more than one form, identify the version in your entry. The most common example of this is books with more than one edition.
Example:

Number:
The source may be part of a numbered sequence. For instance, many journals have volume and issue numbers. If this is the case, identify the volume number and the issue number. Use “vol.” for volume and “no.” for issue numbers.
Example:
Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media.” *PMLA*,

Publisher:
The publisher is the organization primarily responsible for the production of the source. To determine the publisher of a book, look on the title or copyright page. If the publisher is an academic affiliation, you may abbreviate University to “U” and Press to “P.”
Examples:

Publication date:
Cite the date the source was published. If there is more than one date, cite the date that is most relevant to your use of the source.
Examples:

Location:
The location of the source depends on the medium (print or web). The location of a print text in a container such as a book anthology is indicated by a page number (p.) or a range of page numbers (pp.). The location of an online work is commonly indicated by its URL (omit http://). The location is NOT the city of publication!
Examples:


