MLA Style Works Cited Page

*Why do we need the Works Cited page?*

Citations are needed to give credit to the original author of quotes and paraphrased or summarized ideas. The Works Cited page is the last page of the essay/paper, which lists all of the sources that were used in the body of your paper. Since it is a requirement for all research papers, this page is numbered as part of the entire essay/paper.

*MLA* stands for Modern Language Association and is used in English, foreign languages, and some other humanities courses.
Basic Format

1. Label the top of the page with the heading, **Works Cited** if more than one source is used or **Work Cited** if using only one source.
   - Center the heading.
   - Do not underline, bold font, or write in larger font size.

2. Spacing of the Works Cited page should be double spaced.
   - The first line of each entry should be flush against the left margin.
   - The second and subsequent lines should be indented one-half inch (called a hanging indent).

3. Alphabetize sources by authors' last names, regardless of the order sources were cited in the body of the paper.
   - Enables the reader to easily locate cited sources
   - Provides the necessary information about each source

Note: Only those sources that are cited in the body of the paper should be included in the Works Cited list.

How to Cite within the Works Cited Page

**Core Elements:** These elements must appear in the following order:

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

- **Author.** The original person who created the ideas and/or words of the information being used in the paper.

- **Title of source.** The title is the full name of the source, including subtitles.

- **Title of container,** Usually in italics, the container is the venue (web, book, journal, etc.) where the source is found.

- **Other contributors,** Other contributors include editors, translators, interpreters, etc.

- **Version,** The edition of the source is found as part of the description for the container.

- **Number,** Listing the volume and issue of a multi-work clarifies which container was used.

- **Publisher,** The company or organization responsible for production of the container, not the author.

- **Publication date,** Since a work can be reproduced or edited throughout several years, the date specifies the container.

- **Location.** A page range is provided for the source, which will pinpoint where the information is located within the container.

**Note:** MLA style now encourages the use of URLs for web sources.

**General Rules for Documenting Titles of Sources:**

1. Capitalize the first letter of each key word in the main title and subtitle (if applicable).

2. Do not capitalize the following words (unless they are the first word of a title):
   - prepositions (*of, for, from*, etc.), **example:** “A Rose for Emily”
   - articles (*the, a, an*), **example:** “The Cat in the Hat”
   - conjunctions (*and, but, or, nor*, etc.), **example:** “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe”

3. Proper names should always be capitalized.

4. Titles of long works should be noted in italics; titles of short works are enclosed by quotation marks.
Examples:


More than One Author

Listing by Authors’ Names:

1. Authors' names are inverted (last name, first name).

2. If a work has more than one author, invert only the first author's name, follow it with a comma then continue listing the rest of the authors in first name-last name format.

Sources without an Author:

1. List by organization or corporate name in place of author’s name.

2. If no corporate name, start entry with the title of the source.

One Book by Two Authors:

*Basic notes*:
- Give the names in same order listed on the book’s cover and title page.
- Reverse *only the first* author’s name; write the remaining names in normal order.
- Even if authors have the same last name, state each name in full.
- The conjunction *and* is always listed before the name of the last author. Avoid the use of the ampersand (&).
- The comma is used after the name of the first author.
- For a book by three authors, use the same steps above.

*Example:*
**One Book by Three Authors:** The basic structure is the same as for listing two authors.

**Example:**

**Book Written by More than Three Authors:**

**Basic notes:**
- Write all the names in same format as two or three
- Or write only the name of the first author listed and add the rest as *et al.*

**Example:**

**Note:** If the source is cited as *et al.* in the body of the paper, it must be cited as *et al.* on the Works Cited page.

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**Authors with More than One Cited Source within a Single Research Paper**

**Basic notes:**
- List the author’s name only once; additional entries are noted by three hyphens and a period.
- List the books/poems/works in alphabetical order; the first book will consist of the author’s name in reverse form, followed by the basic format for the works listed.

**Examples:**

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**No Publication Information or Pagination:**

**Basic note:** When a book does not indicate publisher, place, or date of publication or pagination, supply as much of missing information as possible.

**Use the following abbreviations:**

- **n.p.** no publisher given
- **n.d.** no date of publication given
- **n.pag.** no pagination given
Work Cited