



Works Cited Entries in MLA Documentation

MLA documentation – and documentation of sources, generally – can be intimidating to students. Fortunately, there are not only many resources available to assist in this part of the writing and research process, but organizations such as the Modern Language Association (MLA) are acknowledging the need to simplify the recording of information in a world where new resources and formats are constantly created.

To that end, MLA has an easy guide to the parts of information needed for documenting sources on a works cited page.

The MLA Style Center provides 9 criteria, or core elements, which make up the information for most works. The images used in this resource can be found on the MLA website at [HYPERLINK "https://style.mla.org/works-cited/works-cited-a-quick-guide/"](https://style.mla.org/works-cited/works-cited-a-quick-guide/) [Works Cited: A Quick Guide](#).

Containers are an important concept for this guide, as parts 3 – 9 refer to elements of a container. This refers to where a source is housed – for example, a short story is published in a book of collected works; the book is the container. Other examples could be an article inside of a journal, a song which is part of a complete album, or an episode of a TV show which is part of a series. In these instances, the journal, album, and TV series are the containers for the shorter works.

Location can also be unclear as it refers to different elements from one work to the next. In some texts, the location refers to page numbers. Since so many sources are available online and do not have page numbers, location can also refer to the URL for the source.

1 Author.

2 Title of Source.

3 Title of Container,

4 Contributor,

5 Version,

6 Number,

7 Publisher,

8 Publication Date,

9 Location.



Here is an example of a source documented with the core elements of MLA.

A Work in One Container

An Article from a Print Journal

1	Author Goldman, Anne.	FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." <i>The Georgia Review</i> , vol. 64, no. 1, spring 2010, pp. 69–88.
2	Title of Source "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante."	
3	Title of Container <i>The Georgia Review</i> ,	
4	Contributor,	
5	Version,	
6	Number vol. 64, no. 1,	
7	Publisher,	
8	Publication Date spring 2010,	
9	Location pp. 69–88.	

← Note missing parts are skipped over

Note that for some of the 9 core elements, the article from a print journal did not have the components. Number four, the contributor; number 5, the version; and number 7, the publisher, are not available and so these elements are skipped over. When a piece of information is missing for the source type, we simply move on to the next pertinent piece of information.

By putting the core elements in the order provided on the list, we generate the final works-cited-list entry, as seen on the right side of the image. Note that the type colors used for highlighting separate the work from the container information.

For formatting, note the hanging indent of the final entry: the first line is aligned left on a works cited page and subsequent lines are indented 0.5 inches.



Lastly, there will be instances where two containers are present for a source. The example below uses an episode from a TV series, so we have the name of the episode provided in the first container: the TV series itself. All the information available for the TV series is provided first.

After the TV series information is utilized, the second container, or the streaming platform for the series, is provided.

A Work in Two Containers
An Episode of a Television Series Watched on a Streaming Service

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of Source.
"I Don't Want to Be Free."
- 3 Title of Container.
Killing Eve,
- 4 Contributor,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number.
season 1, episode 7,
- 7 Publisher.
BBC America,
- 8 Publication Date.
2018.
- 9 Location.
- 10 Contributors,

- 3 Title of Container.
Hulu,
- 4 Contributor,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication Date,
- 9 Location.
www.hulu.com.
- 10 Contributors,

FINAL WORKS-CITED-LIST ENTRY

"I Don't Want to Be Free." *Killing Eve*, season 1, episode 7, BBC America, 2018. *Hulu*, www.hulu.com.

← A second container adds another layer of information

With the basic format and core elements, record the information for your sources and try making your works cited list. For questions and checking your work, consider either consulting the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition, or making an appointment with a writing specialist in the Learning Center for assistance.

