MLA Quick Guide: Works Cited

This guide summarises the basic rules to create a Works Cited entry in the MLA citation style. It is not intended as a complete source. For more details, refer to the MLA section of the General Guide to Referencing 2016.

Basic Rules and Formatting

- Begin the list on a new page at the end of your work.
- Give the list the centred heading ‘Works Cited’.
- Use double line-spacing and a hanging indent (approx. 0.75 cm or 4-5 spaces).
- Include one entry for every source you have cited in the text. Do not add entries for material you have not cited in your work.
- Arrange all entries in alphabetical order by the surname of the first author or title. Arrange alphabetically letter-by-letter, including prefixes M, Mc and Mac (i.e., M, then Mac, then Mc).
- If you have more than one entry with the same author, list them as follows:
  - list by year (earliest first)
  - include the author’s name in the first citation only. In second or subsequent citations, use a long dash (or three hyphens) to stand for the repeating author’s name, followed by a full stop
  - where multiple sources have the same author as writer or co-writer, single-author entries precede multiple-author entries with the same initial surname (e.g. Jones, 1999 is listed before Jones and Harris, 2001)
  - with same author/s and year, list alphabetically by title, and add a lower-case letter to each year; e.g., ‘a’ for first, ‘b’ for second, etc.
- If a source has multiple authors, include them in the order in which they are presented in the work. Reverse the order of the names after the first author, e.g. Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich.
- If a DOI or URL needs to be broken, break before a slash or punctuation mark.

A basic MLA works cited entry is made up of the following parts.

**AUTHOR** + **TITLE** + **PUBLISHER INFO** + **YEAR** + **PUBLICATION MEDIUM** + **RETRIEVAL DATE**

Following are examples based on common sources. Examples of other sources are provided in the General Guide to Referencing 2016.

**BOOK**


**JOURNAL ARTICLE**


**WEBSITE**


Sample works cited list

**Works Cited**


See also – MLA Quick Guide: In-text