

Basic Rules for Using the MLA Core Element Template

Download the template here: style.mla.org/files/2016/04/practice-template.pdf

All numbers in parentheses refer to pages of the *MLA Handbook*, eighth edition.

1. Author.

One author -- Smith, John (21).

Two authors -- Sanchez, Maria, and John Smith (21).

Three authors or more-- Matsui, Earl, et al. (22).

Author(s) in a role -- Johnson, Kirsten, editor (22-24).

Skip author element if no author named (24).

Pseudonyms and user names like regular names where possible (24).

Dangerous Dan.

Dangerous, Ibee.

Omit author name where corporate author name is same as publisher name (25).

2. Title of Source.

Follow MLA rules NOT source's format (25) and get info from authoritative location (67).

Always capitalize first and last word of all source titles (67).

Otherwise, do **not** capitalize articles, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions (67).

Describe and cap first word and proper nouns of untitled works (28-29)

Quote tweets (29).

“Quotation Marks” identify included works:

“A TV Series Episode” or “A Newspaper or a Magazine Article” (27-28)

Italics indicate an independent source such as a book, a periodical, a Web site, a database,

A Book with a Subtitle: Use a Colon after the Main Title (27)

If a work normally in italics appears in a container, it retains its title italics and will appear in the 2 slot, followed by the italicized title of its container. *Hamlet*, for example, could be included in a LIT115 textbook whose title would appear as the container (27).

3. Title of Container,

Italics indicate an independent source such as a book, a periodical, a Web site, a database,

a TV series, and a film (27-28).

Hamlet (print book or film version)

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (TV series)

Articles are back in periodical titles (28, 30)

The Atlantic (Print periodical and Web site)

Reason (Print periodical)

Reason.com (Web site)

Containers such as service sites and databases also take italics (42)

Academic Search Premier (database)

YouTube (service site)

4. Other Contributors,

Add a descriptive to the name of those who aided in the production of a source (37-38).
edited by Kirsten Johnson,
performance by Aiden Turner,
translated by Suzanne Jourdin,

5. Versions, (38-39)

8th ed.,
King James Version,

6. Number, (39-40)

vol. 12, no. 6, (journal)
no. 10, (comic book)
season 2, episode 9, (TV series)

7. Publisher, (40-42, 97)

Write out book publishers in full except for business words:

Print: McGraw-Hill, Penguin Press, Harvard UP,
TV or film: Walt Disney Pictures, New Line Cinema, Fox 21 Television Studios
Networked blogs: Scientific American Blogs, The New York Times

The MLA considers open access blog sites such as *WordPress.com* to be containers, not publishers. To be considered a publisher, a Web blog site needs a host that exercises active oversight, often an editor. Many periodicals, such as *The New York Times*, have such blogs.

When the name of a Web site and its publisher are substantially the same, the publisher name may be left off the work cited entry.

8. Publication date, (42-46)

--consistently write out OR shorten months other than May, June, and July

23 September 2009, **OR** 23 Sept. 2009,

Use the latest full date as available for the specific source you used. This may be just a year.

9. Location. (46-50)

Regular Web sites: Add the full URL minus the http:// or https://

Web databases: Use DOIs where available. Take reader to the login screen otherwise:
www.frontrange.edu/campuses/libraries.
search.ebscohost.com/.

Places: Museum of Modern Art, New York.
Denver Art Museum.

Pages: p. A6.
pp. 34-57.

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS (50-53).