

# MLA CITATION: Step-by-Step

(eighth edition)



1. **Author.** Begin with the author's last name, followed by their first name, then end with a period.

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*, edited by Tobias Wolff, Vintage, 1994, pp. 306-07.

2. **Title of Source.** Then include the title of the source. Depending on the type of source, this should either be listed in quotation marks (article) or italics (book).

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016, [www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/](http://www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/).

3. **Title of Container,** A container refers to the larger entity in which your source can be found, such as a journal, book, or website. The container should be listed in *italics*, followed by a comma.

"94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation*, created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, performance by Amy Poehler, season 2, episode 21, Deedle-Dee Productions and Universal Media Studios, 2010.

4. **Other contributors,** Next, you should include any additional people who contributed to the work such as editors or translators—especially if their contribution is important to the work or might help someone find it—followed by a comma.

Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

5. **Version,** If your source is a particular version or edition of a work, include that information next, followed by a comma.

Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.

6. **Number,** If your source is part of a numbered sequence, such as an academic journal or book series, include that next, followed by a comma.

Quintilian. *Institutio Oratoria*. Translated by H. E. Butler, vol. 2, Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980.

7. **Publisher,** Include the publisher of the work followed by a comma.

*Women's Health: Problems of the Digestive System*. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2006.

8. **Publication date.** Include the date on which the work was published. If there is more than one potential publication date (original, republication, etc.) use the one that is most relevant to your use of the work. End this element with a period.

"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, Mutant Enemy, 1999.

9. **Location.** The place where this source can be found such as a range of pages, URL, or DOI. Be as specific as possible and end this element with a period.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. "On Monday of Last Week." *The Thing around Your Neck*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2009, pp. 74-94.

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Additional optional elements: date of original publication, city of publication, date of access, URLs, DOIs.

The purpose of the information included in your list of works cited is to enable readers to locate the sources themselves. If you look back over the examples, you'll notice that not all of them include every element. MLA8 is designed to be adaptable to many different kinds of sources. Use your best judgement and include whatever information seems relevant for each source, and always defer to your instructor's guidelines for a particular assignment.

MLA formatting dictates that you should list of sources alphabetically on a single page at the end of your paper, with the title Works Cited centered at the top of the page. All entries should be formatted with a hanging indent and the entire page should be double spaced with no extra spaces between entries.