

## HOW TO FORMAT WORKS CITED ENTRIES (MLA 9)

A *works cited* page contains a list of sources that are [cited](#) in an essay. *MLA style* has specific formatting rules for citations on the works cited page; these rules center on **core elements**, or the common features that most sources share. Read the following list of core elements to learn what each includes and how to order them in your citations.

ORDER	CORE ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
1	<b>Author.</b>	The <b>Author</b> is the primary creator of the work you are citing. Sometimes that person is an editor who is not the primary creator of the articles or chapters within, but is the primary creator of the overall work. When that's the case, add the label "editor" after the name. If there is no primary creator, skip the Author element. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 107-21 for more info.)
2	<b>Title of Source.</b>	The <b>Title of Source</b> is the title of the work you are citing. This could be the title of a book, chapter, article, short story, poem, song, work of art, etc. Italicize titles of books and works of art; place titles of chapters, articles, short stories, poems, and songs in quotation marks. If the work doesn't have a title, provide a brief description of it. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 121-34 for more info.)
3	<b>Title of Container,</b>	The <b>Title of Container</b> is the name of the work that <i>contains</i> the work you are referencing in your <b>Title of Source</b> . For example, if you are citing an article from <i>The New York Times</i> , the specific article title is your Title of Source, and its container is <i>The New York Times</i> because it is published (or contained) in that newspaper. Some works, like books, are self-contained and do not need this element. The Title of Container is normally italicized and followed by a comma. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 134-45 for more info.)
4	<b>Contributor,</b>	The <b>Contributor</b> is a person, group, or organization that contributes to the work but isn't the primary creator. Examples of contributors include translators, editors, illustrators, directors (in the case of film or theatrical productions), choreographers, and conductors. Usually the names of contributors are listed near the name(s) of the primary author(s). (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 145-54 for more info.)
5	<b>Version,</b>	The <b>Version</b> of a source is important if there is more than one version of the work you are citing. In books, different versions are called "editions"; sometimes editions are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., or sometimes they are "revised" editions. You may also use this element to note when you've cited the e-book version. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 154-58 for more info.)
6	<b>Number,</b>	The <b>Number</b> of a source is important if the work you are citing is part of a sequence; examples include different volumes of an academic journal, issues of a magazine, or episodes/seasons of a television show. If your source includes a numbering system, list that number in this element. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 158-64 for more info.)
7	<b>Publisher,</b>	The <b>Publisher</b> is the agent responsible for making the source available to the public. Examples of publishers include book publishers, television studios, the institution responsible for a website, a theater company that stages a play, or the specific agency/department that creates a government publication. If there isn't a publisher, as in the case of magazines and newspapers, this element can be omitted. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 164-73 for more info.)
8	<b>Publication Date,</b>	The <b>Publication Date</b> explains when the work was published; if the work has been revised, the revision date may be used. Depending on the information available, the Publication Date may list the year, day, month, season, time stamp, and/or a range of dates/years. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 173-87 for more info.)
9	<b>Location.</b>	The <b>Location</b> element tells your reader where the information you cited can be found; this can include page numbers within the work, a section of a periodical, or the URL if the source is online. (See the MLA 9 Handbook, pp. 187-97 for more info.)

Now that you have an understanding of the core elements, continue to the next page for **example citations** in MLA style.

## BOOK

Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Crown, 2004.

Bryson, Bill.	<i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i> .	Crown,	2004.
<b>Author Last Name, First Name.</b> <b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Book Title Italicized.</b> <b>TITLE OF SOURCE</b>	<b>Publisher,</b> <b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>Year.</b> <b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>

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## E-BOOK

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. E-book ed., Random House, 2009.

Vonnegut, Kurt.	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> .	E-book ed.,	Random House,	2009.
<b>Author Last Name,</b> <b>First Name.</b> <b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Book Title Italicized.</b> <b>TITLE OF SOURCE</b>	<b>Edition,</b> <b>VERSION</b>	<b>Publisher,</b> <b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>Year.</b> <b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>

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## CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN A BOOK

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Wide Sargasso Sea and a Critique of Imperialism." *Wide Sargasso Sea*, edited by Judith L. Raskin, Norton, 1999, pp. 240-47.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty.	"Wide Sargasso Sea and a Critique of Imperialism."	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ,	edited by Judith L. Raskin,
<b>Author Last Name, First Name.</b> <b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Article Title in Quotation Marks.</b> <b>TITLE OF SOURCE</b>	<b>Book Title Italicized,</b> <b>TITLE OF CONTAINER</b>	<b>Editor,</b> <b>CONTRIBUTOR</b>
Norton,	1999,	pp. 240-47.	
<b>Publisher,</b> <b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>Year,</b> <b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>Page Numbers.</b> <b>LOCATION</b>	