The following examples illustrate how references to books, articles, reviews, and other print documents appear in a list of works cited. This guide is not comprehensive; researchers should also consult the *MLA Handbook* (8th edition, 2016).

Footnote or endnote examples are not included in this list. As the *MLA Handbook* points out on page 54, a component of MLA style “is the insertion in your text of a brief [usually parenthetical] reference that indicates the source you consulted. The in-text citation should direct the reader unambiguously to the entry in your works-cited list for the source. . . . A typical in-text citation is composed of the element that comes first in the entry in the works-cited list (usually the author’s name) and a page number.”

Using the first reference on page 2 as an illustration, if your research paper included material from page 46 of Christian G. Appy’s *Working-Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam*, you would document this source in your text with this citation: (Appy 46).

Note that the second and any subsequent lines of each entry are indented. This is called a *hanging indentation* (see page 112 of the *MLA Handbook*).

The following entries are single-spaced to save space (and pages if students want to copy this document). Professors, however, may prefer double-spaced citations, so check with them.

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Books by One Author

The elements of a book citation include the author’s name (last name first, followed by a comma, and then the rest of the name), the title of the book (italicized), the publisher, and the copyright date. As indicated on page 97 of the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, when including publishers’ names, “omit business words like Company (Co.), Corporation (Corp.), Incorporated (Inc.), and Limited (Ltd.). In the names of academic presses, replace University Press with UP (or, if the words are separated by other words or appear alone, replace them with U and P: ‘U of Chicago P,’ ‘MIT P,’ ‘Teachers College P’).”

A place of publication is often not included in a citation as this practice “usually serves little purpose today” (MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 51). On the other hand, “In an entry for a pre-1900 work, you may give the city of publication in place of the publisher’s name.” Also, “A publisher with offices in more than one country may release a novel in two versions—perhaps with different spelling and vocabulary. . . . Stating the city of publication will help your readers understand your source” (see J. K. Rowling example below).


Books by Two Authors

*From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 21:* “When a source has two authors, include them in the order in which they are presented in the work. Reverse the first of the names [that is, last name first], follow it with a comma and and, and give the second name in normal order.”


Books by Three or More Authors

*From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 22:* “When a source has three or more authors, reverse the first of the names [that is, last name first], and follow it with a comma and et al. (‘and others’).”


Books in Editions Other Than the First


Edited Books

One editor:


An author and an editor:


Two editors:


Three or more editors (use et al. for “and others”):


Translated Works


*From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 23:* “When you discuss a source that was translated from another language and your focus is on the translation, treat the translator as the author.” See also page 37.


Books in Series

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 52: If a book you are citing “is part of a series, you might include the series name, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks, and the number of the book (if any) in the series.”


Multivolume Works

If an entire multivolume work is cited, include the number of volumes. Add inclusive dates if the volumes were published over a period of years.


If you are citing an individual volume in a multivolume set, include that particular volume number. If you know the total number of volumes in the set, you can include that at the end of the citation.


If a volume in a multivolume work has its own title, cite the individual title, (The Apprenticeship, below), followed by that book’s copyright date. Then include the title of the entire set (Franklin D. Roosevelt), the volume number you are citing, the publisher, and the set’s copyright date(s). If you know the total number of volumes in the set, you can include that at the end of the citation.

Essays, Stories, Poems, and Other Works in Anthologies and Collections

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, p. 27: “The title of an essay, a story, or a poem in a collection, as a part of a larger whole, is placed in quotation marks.”

An essay:


A story:


A poem:


An independent work:

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, p. 27: When a work that is normally independent (such as a novel or play) appears in a collection (as in Women Crime Writers: Four Suspense Novels of the 1940s and Ibsen: Four Major Plays, below), the work’s title remains in italics.

Hughes, Dorothy B. In a Lonely Place. Women Crime Writers: Four Suspense Novels of the 1940s, edited by Sarah Weinman, Library of America, 2015, pp. 393-578.

Magazine and Journal Articles

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 27: “The title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) is set in italics, and the title of an article in the periodical goes in quotation marks.” If an article is not published on consecutive pages, include just the first page number, followed by a plus sign (+). For example, see the Pringle reference below. If the article is published anonymously, begin the citation with the title. For example, see the “Authors & Editors” citation below.

A magazine article:

Do not include volume numbers and issue numbers, even if they are listed.


A journal article:

Include both volume numbers and issue numbers in journal citations.


Some journals “do not use volume numbers but instead number all the issues in sequence” (MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 40). For example, see the Kadushin citation below. Some journals are published in series, which may be numbered, lettered, or identified as old series (“os”) or new series (“ns”). See the MLA Handbook, 7th edition, section 5.44.


Newspaper Articles (No Sections)

List the name of the newspaper as it appears on the masthead. If the city’s name is not part of the title, the city should be added in square brackets (see examples further on down this page). It is not necessary to include cities of publication for prominent newspapers such as the Christian Science Monitor or the Wall Street Journal. (See the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 111.)

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, for a list of abbreviations). If a newspaper article does not appear on consecutive pages (e.g., pages 1 and 8 rather than pages 1-2 or 6-7), note only the first page number and a plus sign (+). For example, see the Boston Herald example below.


Newspaper Articles (With Sections and Editions)

Newspapers are not well covered in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. According to section 5.4.5 of the 7th edition, if a newspaper is divided into sections, the section letter, number, or name is included in the citation. For example, the article by Shelley N. C. Holl, below, appears in section L, page 4, of the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The article by Joshua Kurlantzick begins on page 9 of section 5 of the late edition of the New York Times. The article by Fritz Lanham is in the “Zest” section of the Houston Chronicle. If the city’s name is not part of the title, the city should be added in square brackets (see articles by Shelley N. C. Holl and Kim Palmer).


Articles in Widely Used Reference Works

Reference works are not included in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. According to “An Article in a Reference Book,” section 5.5.7 of the 7th edition, “When citing widely used reference books, especially those that frequently appear in new editions, do not give full publication information. For such works, list only the edition (if stated) [and] the year of publication.”


Articles in Specialized Reference Works

Reference works are not included in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. From “An Article in a Reference Book,” section 5.5.7 of the 7th edition: “When citing specialized reference works, . . . give full publication information, omitting inclusive page numbers for the article if the dictionary or encyclopedia is arranged alphabetically.”


According to “A Multivolume Work,” section 5.5.14 of the MLA Handbook, 7th edition, “If you are using only one volume of a multivolume work and the volume has an individual title, you may cite the book without reference to the other volumes in the work. . . . Although not required, supplementary information about the complete multivolume work may follow the basic citation.”


Or:

Reprinted Works

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 53: “When a source has been previously published in a form other than the one in which you consulted it, you might include information about the prior publication.”


Dissertations and Theses

Dissertations and theses are not included in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. According to section 5.5.25 of the 7th edition, the titles of unpublished dissertations and master’s theses are enclosed in quotation marks; they are not italicized.


Comic Books

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 31. “An issue of a comic book is contained by the series of which it is a part.” In the first citation below, Batman, Robin, and Batgirl is the title of the comic book, and it was published in the comic book series Detective Comics.


If the comic book “also stands on its own, its title is italicized.”

Book Reviews

Book reviews are not well covered in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. According to section 5.4.7 of the 7th edition, “If the review is titled but unsigned, begin the entry with the title of the review and alphabetize by that title.” If the review is both untitled and unsigned, begin the citation with Review of “and alphabetize under the title of the work reviewed” (see last citation below). The same rules that distinguish magazine article citations from citations to journal articles (e.g., volume and issue numbers) apply to book reviews in these respective publications.

Signed, titled review in a newspaper:


Unsigned, titled review in a newspaper:


Signed, titled review in a journal (includes volume and issue numbers):


Signed, untitled review in a journal (includes volume and issue numbers):


Unsigned, titled review in a magazine (no volume or issue numbers):


Unsigned, untitled review in a magazine (no volume or issue numbers):

Multiple Works by One Author

From the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 113: “To document two or more works by the same author, give the author’s name in the first entry only. Thereafter, in place of the name, type three hyphens. They stand for exactly the same name as in the preceding entry.”

For an author, the three hyphens are followed by a period and the title of the work. Editors, compilers, and similar persons are identified by placing a comma after the three hyphens, followed by editor, compiler, etc. and the title of the work.

“If the same person performed such a role for two or more listed works, a suitable label for that role must appear in each entry. Multiple sources by the same person are alphabetized by their titles; terms describing the person’s roles are not considered in alphabetization.”

Below are sample citations that illustrate the use of three hyphens. The entries also illustrate the citing of the various types of works that are covered in this guide.


