McHenry County College Library - CITING SOURCES in MLA 8th Ed.

All MLA 8th edition citations are created using the same nine core elements that identify important aspects of the source you are citing. Not every element will be present in every citation, but you should always include as many elements as possible. The elements must remain in the same order, and must use the same punctuation. Citations always end in a period.

The nine core elements are as follows:

1. **Author.**
   - The person(s) or group that created the source you are citing. May include performers, online usernames, etc.
   - Use the Last Name, First Name format (e.g., Cameron, Laura).
   - If a source has two authors, include both names (e.g., Letteri, Cynthia, and Janet Scott).
   - If a source has three or more authors, write the first author’s name as above followed by “et al.”

2. **Title of source.**
   - Cite the title as found in the source. Include and capitalize the first word of subtitles.
   - Italicize titles of works that are independent and were not found in other sources.
   - Place quotation marks around titles of works that were found as part of a larger work or source.
   - If you are citing a work with no title, provide a short, general description in this field.

3. **Title of container,**
   - Skip this field if you are citing a source that is independent (i.e., not found within a larger source).
   - Containers are any larger whole that your source is a part of (e.g., a book, TV series, website, database, etc.)
   - Containers may be nested inside other containers (e.g., an article is contained in a journal, which is further contained in a database.)
   - To cite multiple containers, use elements 3-9 for the first container and end with a period. Then use elements 3-9 again for the second, larger container, again ending with a period.
   - Titles of containers are typically italicized.

4. **Other contributors,**
   - Contributors are people who contributed to the source you are citing in a way that is meaningful either to the source or to your research (e.g., editors, translators, performers, creators, etc.)
   - Cite their name(s) preceded by a phrase that describes their relation to the source.

5. **Version,**
   - Some sources may indicate that they are a specific version of a work. Versions may refer to editions of a book, director’s cuts of a film, etc.
   - Cite version information as it is presented in the work you are citing.

6. **Number,**
   - If the source you are using is part of a numbered sequence, include the relevant descriptor and number.
   - This field may refer to issue numbers, volume numbers, series numbers, episode numbers, etc.

7. **Publisher,**
   - Cite the name of the organization responsible for making the source available to the public.

8. **Publication date,**
   - Cite the date the source was published.
   - Use the Day Month Year format (e.g., 29 Aug. 2016 or 12 July 1985).
   - Names of months with more than four letters should be abbreviated to the first three letters followed by a period.

9. **Location.**
   - Location refers to where you found the work (e.g., a page, a range of pages, a URL, physical place, etc.)
   - When citing a single page, write “p.” followed by the page number. To cite multiple pages, write “pp.” followed by the page range. When citing multiple non-consecutive pages, write “pp.” followed by the starting page and “+.”
   - When citing an online source, always use the most stable location data available, such as a permalink or DOI.

Nov. 2016
**CREATING CITATIONS**

The chart below shows how the nine core elements are used to cite some common sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Journal Article in Database</th>
<th>Essay in Collected Works</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Webpage</th>
<th>YouTube Video</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Title of Container</td>
<td>Applied Psychophysiology &amp; Biofeedback,</td>
<td>Teen Sex,</td>
<td>The Purdue Online Writing Lab,</td>
<td>YouTube,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other Contributors</td>
<td>edited by Lauri S. Scherer,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Version</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Number</td>
<td>vol. 34, no. 3/4,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Publisher</td>
<td>Green Haven P,</td>
<td>Arthur A. Levine Books,</td>
<td>Purdue University Writing Lab,</td>
<td>Big Machine Records, LLC,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXAMPLE WORKS CITED PAGE**

The example works cited page below shows how the citations created above would appear at the end of a paper.

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Works Cited


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