



## The MLA Works Cited List

The new edition of the *MLA Handbook* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) marks a significant departure from its previous approach. It is leaner and less prescriptive than any recent version, and it emphasizes that there may be more than one way to document a given source. Although the title, "Works Cited," is retained, the *Handbook* notes that a more inclusive title such as "Works Consulted" may be appropriate. Items in the Works Cited list are in alphabetical order, arranged by the first word of the item (usually the first author's surname). Italics are applied to titles of major works. MLA no longer considers print to be the "normal" format. Here is the basic system:

1. Author's Name (last, first).	Frye, Northrop.
2. Title of source (in <i>italics</i> ).	<i>Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays</i> .
3. Title of container,	
4. Other contributors,	
5. Version,	
6. Number,	
7. Publisher,	Princeton UP,
8. Publication date,	2000.
9. Location.	

Only the first author's name is reversed; the second author's name is not. If there are three or more authors, the first author's name is reversed, and those of the rest are replaced with "et al." ("and others"). The publisher's location "serves little purpose today" (51) and is omitted except for early printed books. The Works Cited entry for the sample work would look like this (note the punctuation):

Frye, Northrop. <i>Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays</i> . Princeton UP,  2000.
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This is a straightforward reference citation, but there are numerous variations covered by the *MLA Handbook*. Some of the more common ones are outlined below.

**A poem, an essay, a chapter, or part of a larger work:**

Layton, Irving. "The Cold Green Element." *Elements of Literature*, edited by Robert Scholes et al., 3rd Can. ed., Oxford UP, 2004, pp. 616-17.

**Note:** Note that a comma separates the title of the poem from the specification "edited by." The poem title is enclosed in double quotation marks between the author's name and the book title. The edition follows the editors' names, and the words "university" and "press" are abbreviated, with no space between "U" and "P." The page range "616-17" (the leading "6" of "617" is omitted) indicates the page numbers where Layton's poem may be found.

**An introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword written by someone other than the book's principal editor or author:**

Feal, Rosemary G. Foreword. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, by the Modern Language Association of America, 8th ed., MLA, 2016, pp. vii-viii.

**Note:** If the foreword had a unique title, it would be inserted between the author's name and the word "Foreword."

**A book with two or more authors:**

Malcolmson, Patrick, and Richard Myers. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*. 3rd ed., Broadview, 2005.

**Note:** The abbreviation "et al." is used when the work has three or more authors. The order of the authors' names within the reference corresponds to the order as listed in the publication rather than alphabetical order. The parts of the first author's name are reversed; the second author's name is not reversed.

**The work of the editors, not the authors, of an anthology:**

Scott, F. R., and A. J. M. Smith, editors. *The Blasted Pine: An Anthology of Satire, Invective, and Disrespectful Verse, Chiefly by Canadian Writers*. MacMillan, 1957.

**A translation:**

Aubert de Gaspé, Philippe-Joseph. *Canadians of Old*.  
Translated by Jane Brierley. Véhicule, 1996.

**A book with the title of another major work in its title:**

Bevington, David, ed. *Twentieth Century Interpretations of Hamlet*. Prentice, 1968. Twentieth Century Interpretations.

**Note:** Note that the book series (Twentieth Century Interpretations) now appears as the final element of the entry. Because *Hamlet* is normally in italics, here within an italicized title it appears in Roman font (plain).

**A manuscript or typescript:**

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*. Circa 1400-1410,  
British Library, London, Harley MS 7334.  
Henderson, George Wylie. *Baby Lou and the Angel Bud*. Circa  
1950. Typescript. Collection of Roslyn Kirkland Allen, New  
York.

**Note:** MS is used for manuscript (work written by hand) and “typescript” indicates a work prepared by machine—computer or typewriter. Also, give the name and location of the library, research institution or personal collection. If there is no title for the MS or TS, give a description (e.g., *Notebook*).

**An article in a periodical:**

Friesen, Peter. "Jane Eyre's Conservative Canadian Cousin: *The Nymph and the Lamp*." *Studies in Canadian Literature* vol. 15, no. 2, 1990, pp. 160-173.

**Note:** The new format includes the abbreviations "vol." and "no." for "volume" and "number." If the month is specified, it is provided in abbreviated form (e.g., "Jan.").

**A website:**

McIntyre, Steve. "Centenary of the End of the Battle of the Somme." *Climate Audit*, 18 Nov. 2016,  
<https://climateaudit.org/2016/11/18/centenary-of-the-end-of-the-battle-of-the-somme/>.

**Note:** The URL is a live link, and a period follows it.

**A comic book:**

Burden, Bob. *Road Hogs from Outer Space*. *Flaming Carrot Comics*, no. 1, Aardvark-Vanaheim, 1984.

**Note:** Again, "number" is abbreviated as "no." Both the issue title and the series title are set in italic font.