

How to Make Citations for MLA's Works Cited Page

A citation allows readers to find the source of the information in order to avoid plagiarizing. In the MLA format, the citations found on the Works Cited page describe the source and include information like author, title, publication, etc. The source's information is arranged in a certain order and completed in a series of steps. Each step finds certain information from the source and places it correctly in the citation. Some steps only apply to certain documents. **If you can't find the information for one of the steps, skip it.**

1. Create Works Cited Page

- a. At the end of your paper, insert a page break.
- b. On the first line of the page, type and center the words "Works Cited"
- c. Hit the Enter key & return to left aligned.
- d. Type all citations here.

2. Author

- a. One Author:
 - i. Write the author's last name.
 - ii. Insert a comma.
 - iii. Write author's first name.
 - iv. Insert a period.

Morris, Marc. *The Norman Conquest: The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England.* Pegasus Books, 2012.
- b. Two Authors:
 - i. Write the *first* author's name according to step a.

- ii. Write "and" & insert a comma.
- iii. Write second author's first name.
- iv. Write second author's last name.
- v. Insert a period.

DeVries, Kelly, and Robert Douglas Smith. *Medieval Military Technology.* 2nd ed., University of Toronto Press, 2002.

- c. Three or more Authors:
 - i. Write the first author's name according to the instructions given in step a.
 - ii. Write "et. al."
 - iii. Insert a period.

Dostal, Petr, et. al. "The Impact of an Invasive Plant Changes Over Time." *Ecology Letters*, vol. 16, 2013, pp. 1277-1284. [EBSCO Host. doi: 10.1111/ele.12166](#). Accessed 15 Nov. 2016.

3. Source's Title

- a. Identify the title.
- b. Identify what type of document it is.
 - i. *Is it small work?* A poem, short story, article, episode, webpage...
 - ii. *Is it large work?* A book, periodical, TV series, movie, website...
- c. Write the title according type.
 - i. If small, write title in quotations:

May, Leila S. "Foul Things of the Night: Dread in the Victorian Body." *The Modern Language Review*, vol. 93, no. 1, 1998, pp. 16-22.
 - ii. If large, write title in italics:

Morris, Marc. *The Norman Conquest: The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England.* Pegasus Books, 2012.
- d. Insert a period.

4. Larger Container (If Applicable)

- a. Identify the source's larger container.

Is your source in...an anthropology, periodical, website, album, TV series?
 - b. Write the container in italics.
 - c. Insert a comma.
- May, Leila S. "Foul Things of the Night: Dread in the Victorian Body." *The Modern Language Review*, vol. 93, no. 1, 1998, pp. 16-22. [JSTOR, www.istor.org/stable/3733619](http://www.istor.org/stable/3733619).

5. Other contributors (If Applicable)

- a. Identify the other contributor (the editor, translator, producer, etc.).
 - b. Write the phrase describing what the person contributed to the work.

For example: "edited by"
 - c. Insert the other contributor's full name.
 - d. Insert a comma.
- Foster, Dennis. "'The Little Children Can Be Bitten': A Hunger for Dracula." *Dracula*, edited by John Paul Riquelme, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002, pp. 483-499.

6. Version (If Applicable)

- a. Identify if there are multiple versions of this source.
 - b. Write the edition into the citation.

For example, "2nded." "radio cut"
 - c. Insert a comma.
- DeVries, Kelly, and Robert Douglas Smith.** *Medieval Military Technology.* 2nd ed., University of Toronto Press, 2002.
- Kingdom of Heaven.* Directed by Scott, Ridley, **director's cut**, Twentieth Century Fox, 26 May 2006.

7. Number (If Applicable)

- a. Identify if this step is necessary.
This step applies for comic books, episodes, magazines, and journals.
- b. Choose applicable method (step c or d).
- c. For comic books, magazines, journals:
 - i. Identify the volume & issue numbers.
 - ii. Write: "vol", period, #, comma.
 - iii. Write "no", period, #, comma.
- d. For specific TV season/episodes:
 - i. Identify the season & episode #s.
 - ii. Write: "season", #, comma.
 - iii. Write: "episode", #, comma.

May, Leila S. "Foul Things of the Night: Dread in the Victorian Body." *The Modern Language Review*, vol. 93, no. 1, 1998, pp. 16-22. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/3733619. Accessed 19 Sept 2016.

8. Publisher

- a. Identify the source's publisher.
Check the copyright info.
- b. Write the publisher.
- c. Insert a comma.

Morris, Marc. *The Norman Conquest: The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England*. Pegasus Books, 2012.

9. Publication Date

- a. Identify the publication date.
- b. Write the date into the citation.
 - i. If a specific date is provided, write day, month, comma, and year.
 - ii. Insert a comma.

Kingdom of Heaven. Directed by Scott, Ridley, director's cut. Twentieth Century Fox, 26 May 2006.

10. Location of Information (page #s and /or URL/DOI)

- a. This step provides page numbers, URL/DOI, etc.
- b. Start with print information, if it applies.
 - i. Identify the pages where you got the information.
 - ii. Write lower case pp, period, page #'s.
 - iii. Insert a period.
- c. If the source is online, describe location.
 - i. This applies if the source was accessed through an online database, website, or webpage.
 - ii. Insert a comma.
- d. Identify the document's Digital Object Identifier (DOI), if possible.
 - i. Insert "doi," colon, the number.
 - ii. Insert a period.
- e. If the DOI can't be found, use the URL.
 - i. Copy and paste the URL into the citation.
 - ii. Delete the http:// part.
 - iii. Insert a period.

Dostal, Petr, et. al. "The Impact of an Invasive Plant Changes Over Time." *Ecology Letters*, vol. 16, 2013, pp. 1277-1284. *EBSCO Host*. doi: [10.1111/ele.12166](https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12166). Accessed 15 Nov. 2016.

11. Recommended Step: Access Date

- a. Insert the date you accessed the source.
Recommended for online sources.
- b. Write "Accessed"
- c. Write the date into the citation.

If a specific date is available write:
the day, the month, and the year.

- d. Insert a period.

Dostal, Petr, et. al. "The Impact of an Invasive Plant Changes Over Time." *Ecology Letters*, vol. 16, 2013, pp. 1277-1284. *EBSCO Host*. doi: [10.1111/ele.12166](https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12166). Accessed 15 Nov. 2016.

NOTE: No matter what the final entry is, the citation should end with a period.

12. Repeat For All Your Citations

Repeat steps two through ten for *each* source until all the required sources have a citation.

13. Revise Works Cited Page

- a. Alphabetize the citations according to the author's last name.
- b. Highlight all the citations.
- c. Double space the citations.
- d. Insert the hanging indent.

Congratulations! You're done!

Your works cited page should resemble this:

Works Cited

DeVries, Kelly, and Robert Douglas Smith. *Medieval Military Technology*. 2nd ed., University of Toronto Press, 2002.

Morris, Marc. *The Norman Conquest: The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England*. Pegasus Books, 2012.