# MLA Citations

The *MLA Handbook, 8th edition* lists the rules for creating citations for your sources. To create a citation for each source, you will need the information (core elements) listed in the charts below. *If you can’t find a core element, skip it and move on to the next one on the list.* Use the punctuation noted after each element.

### List the author’s last name first when there is only one author.

Titles of books, movies, or other long works go in italics. Articles, short stories, and other short works go in quotation marks.

### What is a Container?

When your source is a part of a larger whole, the larger whole is a container that holds your source.

- For an article in a journal, the article is the source and the journal is the container.
- For an essay in a book, the essay is the source and the book is the container.
- For a Web page, the page is the source and the Web site is the container.

All containers are written in italics.

### Some sources have more than one container. For these sources, add the information about the second container after the information about the first container. See the example for an article from a database on the reverse of this page.

#### Examples of sources with two containers:

- For an article that was published in a journal that was accessed from a database or Web site: The article is the source, the journal is the first container, and the database or Web site is the second container.

- For an essay in a book that was accessed from a database or Web site: The essay is the source, the book (eBook) is the first container, and the database or Web site is the second container.
MLA Citation Examples

Use only the core elements from the chart on the reverse that apply to your source.

**An entire print book**

Author. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication date. [NOTE: Omit Container since a book is not part of a larger whole.]


**An essay or chapter from a print book**

Author. “Title of Source.” *Title of Container*, Other contributors, Publisher, Publication date, Location.


**An eBook accessed through an MJC Library database (two authors)**

Author, and Author. *Title of Source*. Publisher, Publication date. *Title of Container*, Location.


**An article or essay from a journal found in an MJC database**

Author. “Title of Source.” *Title of Container 1*, Number, Publication date. *Title of Container 2*, Location.


**A Web page (no author)**

“Title of Source.” *Title of Container*, Publication date, Location. [NOTE: Omit Publisher if it is the same as Container]


**A Web page (Government site/ Corporate author)**

“Title of Source.” *Title of Container*, Publisher, Publication date, Location. [Optional: Date of access.]