Each entry in your Works Cited list is made up of **Core Elements** followed by an appropriate punctuation mark. The Core Elements are common across most works; not all sources have all elements. Create your citation according to the Core Elements available to you. When your source is part of a larger source (a chapter in a book, an article in a journal, an episode of a television series, an article in an online database), then it is considered to be inside of a **container**.

### MLA Core Elements with Corresponding Punctuation
1. Author.
2. Title of Source.
3. Title of Container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication Date,
9. Location.

### Items In Single Container

#### Book

#### Portion of a Book (i.e. Chapter or Short Story)

#### Journal Article in Print Journal

#### Online Periodical (Newspaper or Magazine)

### Items in Multiple Containers

#### Journal Article in a Database

The journal *Feminist Studies* is the smaller container; the database JSTOR is the larger container. The source’s location is the page number range; the container’s location is the URL.

### Tips and Tricks for Using MLA 8th Edition
Refer to the *MLA Handbook* for easy problem-solvers to all your questions. The *Handbook* can be found at the Research and Information Services Desk at University of Memphis McWherter Library. Ask for it by name, or call number LB2369 G53 2016.
MLA 8th Edition Works Cited

The Elements

- The Author element is where the main creator of the source is cited. Include the author of a source at the beginning of your citation, last name first. If there is more than one author, include both, in the order the publication has them displayed. The second author’s first name is first. When a source has three or more authors, use only the first name given, and follow it with et al. (Latin for and others). If no creator is present, skip to the Title element.

- Title of Source refers to the title of the material cited. Whole works unto themselves (books, collections of essays, stories, and poems, television series) should be written in italics. Titles of smaller pieces contained in larger works (television episodes, songs, online articles, journal articles) should be given quotation marks. Titles of unusual sources are further clarified on pp. 25-29 of the MLA Handbook.

- Include the Title of Container, which can be journals, magazines, newspapers that include an article that being documented, or a website on which a blog entry is located. If your container is housed in a larger container (like an article in a journal), then document both containers by adding elements 3-9 for the second container following the full citation of the first container. Useful templates are available in pp. 32-36 of the MLA Handbook.

- Other contributors should be documented if anyone besides the author(s) played a key role in the creation of the work (editors, translators, performers, narrators, illustrators, etc.).

- If a source is released in more than one form, indicate which Version it is (edition of a book).

- If a source is parted of a Numbered sequence (such as an issue of a journal), include this information. Issues of scholarly journals are identified with, for instance, “vol. 64, no. 1.”

- The Publisher is the organization that makes the source available. The publisher is usually found on the title page of a book. It can also refer to the organization that produces the film, website, or other medium cited.

- Publication Date refers to the date the source was offered to the public. If a source has more than one publication date, use the date that most applies to your research. Write the full date as found in the source. It may be just a year; sometimes a month or day are important, such as with blog entries or news articles. If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season and year are cited.

- The Location location depends on the source. The location in a print source is the page number or range of page numbers. Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are preceded by p. or pp. Online sources should be indicated with a URL (without http:// or https://). The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged. For more about using URLs and DOIs, see pp. 46-50 in the MLA Handbook.

- There are Optional Elements to include if necessary. Get more information on pp. 50-53 of the Handbook.

In-Text Citations and Examples

Include the author’s last name, or a shortened title, if author is absent, either in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation. If using a paginated source, include the page number. For time-based media like video, times are cited in the text.

In-text citations are an essential aspect of citation. See more about in-text citations in the Handbook, pp. 54-58.

| Direct Quote | In his essay “Argument as Conversation,” Stuart Green considers the importance of the scholarly conversation in creating argument, emphasizing that “seeing research as a means for advancing a conversation makes the research more real” (33). |
| Paraphrase | Stuart describes framing as an author’s way of giving perspective on a specific topic by describing it through a particular concept or point of view, such as how scholar E. D. Hirsch used the term cultural literacy to frame an argument about education (36). |

For more about in-text citations and why they are so necessary, see the University Libraries’ “Why Cite” tutorial: memphis.libwizard.com/citations and the MLA 8th Edition interactive tutorial: memphis.libwizard.com/mla-8