

FAQs for MLA Works Cited Pages

What is a reference page?

Just like it sounds, a works cited page is a place for you to list all of the sources you cited in your essay. It always comes at the end of the document.

Why do I need them?

Most importantly, works cited pages will prevent you from being accused of plagiarism. They give credit to the authors of the works that you use, and they help your reader to recognize and find your research.

When do I need them?

You'll need a works cited page for any assignment in which you reference someone else's writing. If you use *any* works of literature or research in your paper, you'll need a works cited page.

How do I do them?

Ah. Here's the big question. Works cited pages can be confusing at first, but, once you know the basic rules, they're not too scary. We'll take a look at a sample works cited page on the next page and how to create citations for some of the most common sources on the following pages.

Note that your header will continue onto
your works cited page

Lastname 2

Works Cited

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies: British Literary History, 1883-1924*. Columbus: Ohio State
UP, 2008. Print.

Kirby, David. *What Is a Book?* Athens: U of Georgia P, 2002. Print.

Citations should be ordered
alphabetically and should have a
hanging indent

More, Hannah. "The Black Salve Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*.
Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82. Print.

All formatting from the paper will remain for the
reference page: 1" margins, Time New Roman 12pt
font, double-spaced.

The Sources

Each different kind of source is cited in a different way. A citation for a journal article will look different than a citation for a book. While there are too many kinds of sources to include in one handout, we'll look at three of the most common here: journal articles, books, and a work from an anthology.

Journal Article

The citation should include:

- ___ The author's last and first name. If your author's name is John Smith, it will appear as "Smith, John."
- ___ The title of the article in quotation marks.
- ___ The title of the journal in italics.
- ___ The volume and issue number of the journal written with a decimal. If it is Volume 56, issue 2, it will appear in your citation as 56.2.
- ___ The year of the journal's publication in parentheses, followed by a colon.
- ___ The page range of the article. For the ending page number, include only the last two digits unless the first digit is different than that of the beginning page. For example, write "280-99" instead of "280-299," but write "280-300" instead of "280-00."
- ___ The medium of publication.

Here are some examples:

*****Make sure to note placement of commas and periods!*****

Lastname, First. "Title of article." *Title of Periodical* 00.0 (year): 000-00. Print.

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print

Book

The citation should include:

- ___ The author's last and first name. If your author's name is John Smith, it will appear as "Smith, John."
- ___ The title of the book in italics.
- ___ The city of publication, followed by a colon.
- ___ The publisher name, abbreviated according to MLA guidelines.
- ___ The year of publication.
- ___ The medium of publication.

Here are some examples:

*****Make sure to note placement of commas and periods!*****

Lastname, First. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher Name, year. Print.

Kirby, David. *What Is a Book?* Athens: U of Georgia P, 2002. Print.

A Work from an Anthology

This includes a poem or short story published in an anthology, an essay from a collection, and a single chapter from a book. The citation should include.

- ___ The author's last and first name.
- ___ The title of the author's work in quotation marks.
- ___ The title of the book that the work is published in in italics.
- ___ The editor of the anthology. His/her name will be prefaced with "Ed."
- ___ The city of publication.
- ___ The publisher's name.
- ___ The year of publication.
- ___ The page range of the work.
- ___ The medium of publication.

Here are some examples:

*****Make sure to note placement of commas and periods!*****

Lastname, First. "Title of Work." *Title of Book*. Ed. Editor's First and Last Name. City:
Publisher's name, year. 000-00. Print.

More, Hannah. "The Black Salve Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*.
Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82. Print.

All information for this handout is taken from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th*. Ed. Hopefully, this handout gives you a basic idea of what works cited pages are and how to do them. However, it is in no way an exhaustive list of all of the rules of MLA works cited pages. For questions about sources with multiple authors, translated works, electronic sources, or anything else, we encourage you to take a look at the MLA handbook or come visit us in the Writing Center.