



MLA WORKS CITED OVERVIEW

What is a Works Cited?

Your Works Cited is the full, detailed listing of all sources you either directly quote, paraphrase, or reference within the body of your essay. Your Works Cited will contain listings only for sources you reference directly in your essay.

What are the core elements I need to include in a Works Cited entry?

The specific information will vary slightly depending on the source you have used, but MLA has suggested core elements that should be included in your citation. These are (in order):

- Author.
- Title of the work.
- Title of container,
- Other contributors,
- Version,
- Number,
- Publisher,
- Publication Date,
- Location.

What should a Works Cited entry for a book look like?

You will begin by identifying your author using the last name, first name format. This is followed by the title (book titles are formatted in *italics*), publisher, and year of publication. Your citation will look like this:

Sutton, Ann. *The Structure of Weaving*. Interweave, 1982.

What should a Works Cited entry for a peer-reviewed journal article look like?

Many of your classes will require you to cite sources that are from peer-reviewed journals. The format for these can differ slightly, depending on whether or not you obtained your article directly from a journal or from a database.

As with a book, you will begin by identifying your author using the last name, first name format. This is followed by the title of the article in quotation marks, then the title of the journal in italics. From there, you need to provide the version and number (this relates to the specific issue of journal), the publisher, and publication date. You will also need to include the location, which is the page number or range of pages your specific article is published on.

If you acquired your source from a database, you will also need to cite that database. In addition to identifying which database you are citing (*Art Source*, *EbscoHOST*, *JSTOR*, etc.), you will also need to provide either the URL or the DOI. This is so your reader can go and look at your actual source online if they want to. Not all databases provide a DOI; this stands for Digital Object Identifier and is like a stable URL that links directly to your source. Some databases, such as *JSTOR*, actually provide a stable URL, which is also acceptable. Should neither a stable URL nor DOI be available, you are fine to cut and paste the URL directly from your browser window.

Your Works Cited entry will then look like this:

Farago, Claire J. "Leonardo's Battle of Anghiari: A Study in the Exchange between Theory and Practice." *Art Bulletin*, vol. 76, no. 2, June 1994, p. 301.
EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=940

If you had found this not through an online database but from the physical journal, then your citation would look like this:

Farago, Claire J. "Leonardo's Battle of Anghiari: A Study in the Exchange between Theory and Practice." *Art Bulletin*, vol. 76, no. 2, June 1994, p. 301.

What if my source is a class reading I found on Moodle?

Your class readings can serve as excellent sources for your essays, and often you will have assignments where you are expected to cite these sources. In this case, we would view Moodle the same as any other scholarly database. Your citation would then look like this:

Breton, Andre. "First Manifesto of Surrealism, 1924." *Art in Theory: 1900-2000*, edited by Charles Harrison and Paul Wood, Blackwell, 2003, pp. 447-52. *ACAD Moodle*, http://moodle.acad.ca/pluginfile.php/224460/mod_resource/content/2/March%203.%20Andre%20Breton.pdf

What should a Works Cited entry for a website look like?

If you are citing an article you found on a website, where the author and other information such as publication date is known, your Works Cited entry will look like this:

Swann, Jennifer. "The Art Biennale Held on the Shores of a Toxic Lake." *Vice*, 20 Apr. 2017, https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/the-art-biennale-held-on-the-shores-of-a-toxic-lake.

Often with websites, we cannot identify a specific author, nor is it always obvious when things were published. If this is the case you can leave author out and publication date out, and then your Works Cited entry will begin with the title of the page (if you are in doubt about the page title, check to see what is shown in the tab of your browser). In this case, your Works Cited entry would look like this:

“Biography.” *Studio Olafur Eliasson*, <http://olafureliasson.net/biography>.

In previous versions of MLA I would include the access date for web sources. Is this still necessary?

Previous versions of MLA did request access dates for online sources. This is because the information on websites can change; the access date was provided as a way for you, the author, to verify that the information you were citing was accurate on that particular date of access. With MLA 8, access dates are optional.

Some instructors will request them, in which case you should make sure they are present. They will go at the end of your citation, after the URL. Your citation, then, would look like this:

Swann, Jennifer. “The Art Biennale Held on the Shores of a Toxic Lake.” *Vice*, 20 Apr. 2017, https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/the-art-biennale-held-on-the-shores-of-a-toxic-lake. Accessed 15 May 2017.

The most important thing for you is to be consistent. Do not include access dates for some sources and not others. If you are including them for one web source, then include them for all. It is worth noting that access dates would only be included for web sources. It is not necessary to include them for print or video sources.

What is the basic format of a Works Cited?

Your Works Cited should be the final page of your essay; it is located after the body of your essay and any illustrations or images you have included.

It must be in alphabetical order by author last name, and all entries should be formatted with hanging indentation. Maintain the double spacing of your essay for your Works Cited.

What if I have several sources from the same author?

If you cite several different works from the same author, put these in alphabetical order by the title, and use three hyphens --- in place of the author’s name for every entry after the first one.

It will look like this:

Farago, Claire J. “Leonardo’s Battle of Anghiari: A Study in the Exchange between Theory and Practice.” *Art Bulletin*, vol. 76, no. 2, June 1994, p. 301. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=9409151184&site=ehost-live.

---. “Leonardo’s Color and Chiaroscuro Reconsidered: The Visual Force of Painted Images.” *Art Bulletin*, vol. 73, no. 1, Mar. 1991, p. 63. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=9104222525&site=ehost-live.

What is a hanging indentation and how do I create one?

A hanging indent is when the first line of your entry is flush with the margin, and every subsequent line is indented (or hanging).

Microsoft Word:

- Select the text you want indented.
- Go to Paragraph > Indentation > Special.
- Select Hanging Indent.

Google Docs:

- Select the text you want indented.
- On the top ruler, identify the light blue inverted triangle; drag this to the right a half inch. You will notice that above the inverted triangle is a rectangle, and it will also move when you move the triangle.
- Now drag the rectangle back to your original margin on the left. Your first line of text will move back to the original margin, creating your hanging indent.

Pages on a Mac:

- Select the text you want indented.
- Click View > Show Ruler.
- Click on the left indent icon (inverted triangle) and drag it to the right a half inch.
- Click on the first line indent icon (small rectangle above triangle) and drag it back to the original margin, creating your hanging indent.

What if I have questions about my Works Cited that aren't covered here?

ACAD has numerous learning supports available, including the Writing Centre and Drop-in Tutoring. These services are available to you as a student for no additional charge. The Writing Centre is by appointment; please email writing.centre@acad.ca.

What if I need academic support or accommodations in my classes?

In-class accommodations and supports are available to students. These can include support services, assistive technologies, resources, and access to funding. For more information, contact the Learning Assistance Office: learning.assistance@acad.ca.