

How to Create MLA Citations

Citations include this information in this order:

Author(s)--must be a person (not editor)

“Title of article” or “Page of Website”--capitalize all first letters

Container: Website (the whole thing)/ Magazine/ Newspaper/ Journal Name/
Book (italicize)

Contributors

Version, number

Publisher info, date

Location: Pages/ URL/ DOI

Date Accessed if it's a website

**Note: Most citations will be missing some of these items. If you don't know a part of it, go to the next part--don't write NA.

- If there is a known author, it is the first item (Last name, First name.) If not, skip it. Go straight to the article title.
- “Staff” or “Editors” or “N/A” are not considered authors when it comes to MLA. Only real names. Just leave it blank if there isn't a named author.
- Quotation marks. An article's title should be surrounded by quotation marks with a period inside.
- Italics. The name of the website must be in italics. (note: Be careful to retain all italics from databases--these often have more than one item italicized and they get lost when you paste.)
- The name of the website is what you find when you look at the webpage. The website is not the same thing as the web page, which is one page of the site. It is not a shortened web address. For example, *The New Yorker* is a website name. *newyorker.com* is NOT.
- EasyBib is not always right. It is your responsibility to look for problems:
 - “Pipes” indicate that EasyBib couldn't figure out which title was right and so it included two and separated them with a straight up and down line. You have to go back to the article online and look at it to

determine the correct title and fix your citation.

- There will *always* be a publisher, even if EasyBib couldn't figure it out. You need to verify what they come up with. Go back to the article online and look for the real publisher. You can usually determine the publisher by scrolling to the bottom. The publisher is often a parent company of the website and might have a logo or copyright date next to its name.

How To Format Your Works Cited Page

- Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
- Title your document Works Cited and center this title. Do not do anything fancy to the title.
- Alphabetize all entries by the piece of information that comes first. This is almost always an author, or if you don't know that, the title of the article (which is usually in quotation marks). If the author or title is the same as another entry, alphabetize by whatever word comes next that is different—see the sample.
- When alphabetizing, pretend the words A, An, and The aren't in the title and go to the next word.

- The first line of every entry begins at the left margin. Every other line after that for each entry needs to be indented. This is a pain. [See this video](#) to watch how I do this.
- The whole thing should be double spaced. No extra space between entries.
- Make all text color black except for links and remove any highlighting (when you copy and paste, this often isn't correct). Live links should be blue.

Here is a [sample Works Cited page](#). Yours should look exactly like this format-wise.

How to Create In-text Citations

- Follow this format:
 - Plan A: Use the author's last name. Example: (Smith).
 - Plan B: If and only if there is no author, use the full title of the article in quotation marks. Example: ("Leprosy").
 - Plan C: If you have two or more articles with the exact same author or full title, you will need to include both the author or title (in quotation marks) + the next item, which is probably the title or publisher. A comma should appear inside the quotation marks to separate it from the publisher. Example: ("Tuberculosis (TB)," Mayo Clinic). Putting both bits of information will distinguish one source from another.
- In-text citations should be surrounded by parentheses.

- No period inside the parentheses. The period will go after the close-parenthesis if the citation is at the end of your sentence.