In the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*, the resource’s publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, “How do I cite a book or DVD or Web page?” the writer creates an entry including MLA’s list of core elements. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown unless it is the final element, in which case it should end with a period.
AUTHOR.

- Begin the entry with the author’s last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name.

- When the source has two authors, include both beginning with the last name on the first author and second name in normal order.

- When a source has three or more authors, list the first author beginning with the last name and follow with a comma and et al. (“and others”).


- Use the editor if it’s an edited volume.


- In film and television, if your discussion focuses on an actor or screenwriter, begin the entry with his or her name, followed by a descriptive label.


- Authors may be institutions or associations.


- If no author’s or editor’s name is indicated, begin the entry with the title.

- If you utilize more than one source by the same author, give the author’s name in the first entry only. In subsequent entries, in place of the name, type three hyphens.
They stand for exactly the same name as in the preceding entry. The three hyphens are usually followed by a period and then the title. If the person named performed a different role (editor, translator, director, etc), add a comma and the role before the period.


**TITLE OF SOURCE.**

- Titles are taken from the source with capitalization and punctuation between main title and subtitle standardized. Include a colon between title and subtitle. The title is italicized if the source is independent, and placed in quotation marks if part of a larger work.


- The title of a periodical (magazine, journal or newspaper) is italicized; the title of the article is in quotation marks. This rule applies across media forms. The title of a television series – italics. The title of an episode of a television series – quotation marks. Title of a web site – italics. Posting or article at a web site – quotation marks. Song on an album – quotation marks.


  “Hush.” *Buffy the Vampire Slayer,* created by Joss Whedon, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999. (television episode)


- When you document an e-mail message, use its subject as the title. The subject is enclosed in quotation marks.


**TITLE OF CONTAINER,**

When the source forms a part of a larger whole, the larger whole is considered a [container](#) that holds the source. The title of the container is italicized. The container may be a book that is a collection of essays or poems. It may be a journal or magazine which holds articles; a television series, made up of episodes; or a web site with articles or postings. Sometimes there are two containers; [Academic Search Complete (database)](#) contains journals or magazines which contain articles.
A Source in Two Containers

A Journal Article Retrieved from a Database


OTHER CONTRIBUTORS,

Other people may be credited as contributors, if their participation is important to your research or to the identification of the work: adapted by, directed by, edited by, illustrated by, narrated by, translated by, etc.


VERSION,

Books are commonly issued in versions called editions. Works in other media may also appear in versions.


NUMBER,

If your source uses a numbering system, include the number in your entry. If you consult one volume of a numbered multi-volume set, indicate the volume number. Journal issues and comic books are typically numbered. The seasons of a television series are numbered, as are the episodes in a season.


PUBLISHER,

- The publisher is the organization primarily responsible for producing the source. If two or more are named and are equally responsible, cite both, separating the names with a forward slash. For a book, look first on the title page; if not there, look on the copyright page.

- When referencing a work in film or television, cite the organization that had primary responsibility.

- Web sites are published by various kinds of organizations; the publisher’s name is often located in a copyright notice at the bottom of the home page or on a page with related information (About Us, as an example).

- A publisher’s name may be omitted in: a journal, magazine or newspaper; a web site whose title is the same as the publisher; or a web site not involved in producing the works like YouTube or WordPress.


Kuzul, Fran Rubel, director. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1992. (television program)


Publication date,

When a source carries more than one date, cite the date that is most relevant. Books typically list one date of publication. Whether to give the year alone or include a month and day, depends on your source; write the full date as you find it.


**Location.**

- Citing a work’s location depends on the medium. In print sources, indicate page number or range of page numbers (preceded by p. or pp.).

- The location of an online work is indicated by the URL. Some publishers assign DOIs, or digital object identifiers, to their online publication. If available, cite using a DOI.

- The location of a television episode in a DVD set is indicated by the disc number.

- A physical object that is experienced firsthand, such as a work of art, is located in a place. Give the name of the place and of its city (but omit the city if it is part of the place’s name).


*Visualizing Emancipation*. Directed by Scott Nesbit and Edward L. Ayers, dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/.


# MLA Practice Template

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