

MLA Style (8th edition) Highlights

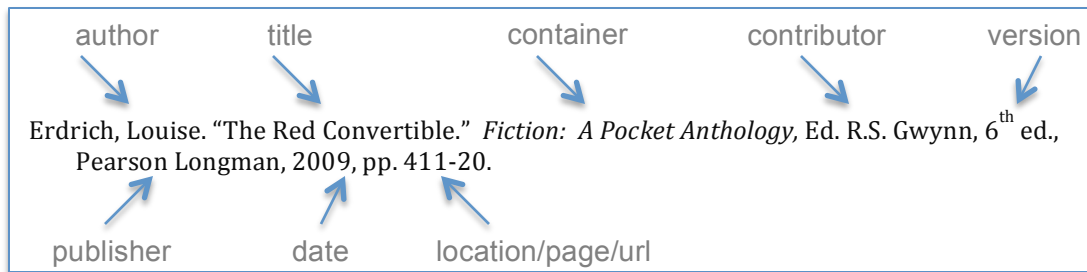
MLA Style refers to a system of documentation often used in literature, languages, and humanities disciplines for writing a research paper. **MLA** stands for **Modern Language Association**, a global academic professional organization that has published the conventions and rules of this system in the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, and on the MLA website: <https://style.mla.org>.

MLA Style uses **in-text citations** in the body of a paper; each corresponds to an alphabetized list of **works cited** at the end of the paper. Use a citation when you quote, paraphrase, or summarize from a source. If you use multiple sources from the same author, include titles to distinguish between sources:

The narrator remembers, "While Henry was not around we talked about what was going to happen to him" (Erdrich 415).

The narrator remembers, "While Henry was not around we talked about what was going to happen to him" (Erdrich, "Red Convertible," 415).

Works cited entries are composed of **core elements** listed in a certain order, punctuated a certain way. List core elements in this order: **Author. Title of source. Title of container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, location/pages/url.**



How to Format a Paper in MLA Style

- Use a **running head** on the top right, consisting of your last name and the page number. Number all pages consecutively.
- **The first page also serves as your title page.** Your name, professor, course, and date should be double-spaced and flush with the top left margin.
- Double-space once and then center the title of the essay (do not italicize, bold or underline).
- Use a **standard font** (such as Times New Roman), font size (12), and **one-inch margins** throughout.
- **Do not justify** the right margin; leave it **ragged**.
- Quotations that run **longer than 4 lines must be "block" quoted**, with a hanging indent and no quotation marks.

How to Format the Works Cited Page in MLA Style

- Position the Works Cited page at the end of the paper.
- **Continue the pagination** of the paper through the Works Cited page.
- Use the title "Works Cited" in the title position at the top of the page, centered.
- **Alphabetize by authors' last names.** If no author is given, the title of the source determines the alphabetical order.
- Begin at left margin, **double-space**, and use a **hanging indent** of ½ inch.
- **Include reference books**, encyclopedias, and dictionaries in the Works Cited list.
- **Include sources for illustrations**, tables, graphs and figures in the list.

Examples of Frequently Used Works Cited Entries

Literature anthology

Erdrich, Louise. "The Red Convertible." *Fiction: A Pocket Anthology*, edited by R.S. Gwynn, 6th ed., Pearson Longman, 2009, pp. 411-20.

Peer-reviewed Journal Article

Sergi, Jennifer. "Storytelling: Tradition and Preservation in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*." *World Literature Today*, vol. 66, no. 2, 1992, pp. 279-82.

Article From a Database

Sergi, Jennifer. "Storytelling: Tradition and Preservation in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*." *World Literature Today*, vol. 66, no. 2, 1992, pp. 279-82. *JSTOR*, http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/40148133.pdf?_=1467214661927.

Book with One Author

Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine*, Kindle ed. Harper-Collins, 1984.

Book with More Than One Author

Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. *The Crown of Columbus*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.

Newspaper/Periodical/Print

Erdrich, Louise. "Where I Ought to Be: A Writer's Sense of Place." *New York Times*, 28 July 1985, *Books*, p. 1.

Newspaper/Periodical/Digital/Database

Erdrich, Louise. "Where I Ought to Be: A Writer's Sense of Place." *New York Times*, 28 July 1985, *Books*, p. 1. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*, <http://ezproxy.tcu.edu/docview/111211223?accountid=7090>.

Dictionary or Reference Book

"Louise Karen Erdrich." *Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*. Merriam-Webster, 2002, p. 387.

Television, Radio, or Film Broadcast

DVD or screening

Little Big Man. Dir. Arthur Penn. Perf. Dustin Hoffman, Faye Dunaway. National General Pictures, 1970.

Digital Streaming/Archive

Little Big Man. Dir. Arthur Penn. Perf. Dustin Hoffman, Faye Dunaway. National General Pictures, 1970. *YouTube*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDBJLEliTIY>.

Illustration

Remington, Frederic. *The Scout: Friends or Foes*. 1905, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute; Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Graphic Novel or Comic

Ellis, Warren, and Mike Deodato, Jr. *Faith in Monsters* (Part 6). *Thunderbolts*, no. 115, Marvel Comics, 2007.

Social Media

@sherman_alexie. "I'm not that far from being a tribal elder." *Twitter*, 10 June 2016, https://twitter.com/Sherman_Alexie/status/741303912376897540.

E-mail

Ringgold, Jasmine. "Re: 1994 Erdrich Interview." Received by RaeAnne Minor, 14 August, 2016.