GOOD NEWS: MLA 8 is less concerned with what kind of a source you are citing than on what information you should include. The new rules emphasize putting as much information as you can within certain guidelines so that the reader can locate your source information himself or herself.

Consider the following questions:

- WHO is the author of the source?
- WHAT is the title of the source?
- HOW was the source published?
- WHERE did you find the source?
- WHEN was the source published?

If this information is not immediately available, you should look for it before deciding it does not exist. With books, for example, you should look at the copyright page. With websites, go to the bottom of the page or look for a link labeled “about this site” or something similar. With periodicals, the first page of the article (especially if you read it as a pdf) will generally give you the information you need.

Works Cited entries will be organized by core elements, separated by the punctuation shown below:

```
1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.
```

Author. Title of the source. Title of the container, Other contributors, Version, Numbers, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

1. AUTHOR: Start with last name and then first name. If you have more than one author, reverse the first name only and keep the names in the same order in which they are given on the source. For three or more authors (or two or more editors), use the first person’s name only, followed by et al. With other media, alphabetize by the person whose role you want to emphasize: for a song, for example, if you want to emphasize the singer, start with the singer’s name; if you want to highlight the songwriter, begin with that name. For films, you might start with the director or the screenwriter or the actor, depending on which role you are discussing in your work. If the source does not have an author, do not use “Anonymous” or “N.A.” – just begin with the title of the work.
2. **TITLE OF SOURCE:** Use standard capitalization (first and all major words in the title, even if the source does something differently such as uses all capitals). Use italics (or underlining if handwritten) for a self-contained work (book, film, television series, website, periodical) and use quotation marks if the source is part of a larger work (short story, song, article title, television episode, portion of website, poem, chapter).

3. **TITLE OF CONTAINER:** With MLA 8, the “container” is the larger thing that contains the source. Because it is usually the “whole,” its title will be italicized, and the details that follow will be separated by commas since they help to describe the container (rather than be separate from it). Some examples of containers include books, periodicals, television series, websites, a series of comic books, etc. But a container can actually be part of a larger container. For example, a college database is a container that holds periodical containers within it. Netflix is a container that can hold a film container or a television series container. (Examples of containers within containers are given later in the document.)

4. **OTHER CONTRIBUTORS:** If others are involved in the source, you should give them credit. Indicate their function with a descriptor such as adapted by, edited by, illustrated by, translated by, directed by, performance by, etc. If the role does not lend itself to such a description (such as general editor), you can just list the role as a noun, followed by a comma and then the name.

5. **VERSION:** If there are multiple editions; updated, unabridged or revised editions; a director’s cut; or something similar, you need to indicate that. This recognizes that there are multiple forms of the source.

6. **NUMBER:** If the source you are working with is part of a numbered sequence, you need to indicate that. This would include volume numbers; volume and issue of journals; comic books; and seasons and episodes of a television series, among others.

7. **PUBLISHER:** The publisher is the organization that produces the source. Book publishers can be found on the title page. Web sites may be published by universities, museums, libraries, or other organizations; look for the copyright information on the home page for this information. A publisher is not required for the following: a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper); work published by its author or editor; a web site whose title is the same as the name of its publisher; a web site that makes content available but does not produce it (such as YouTube or a database like Ebscohost or JSTOR).

8. **PUBLICATION DATE:** If a source has more than one date (such as the date an article appeared in print and the date it was published online), use the one that is most relevant to your use of the source. Write the full date that you find on the source. For periodicals, list date as it appears (some are published daily, some weekly, some monthly, some seasonally). For books, cite the date of the edition you used, which may be different from its original publication date.

9. **LOCATION:** The information you give for the location will depend on the type of source. Print sources will use p. (page number) or pp. (page numbers) if you are citing something that is found in a container like a periodical or anthology. Online source location will be indicated by its URL (unless your instructor prefers they be omitted). If a source has a stable URL (also known as a permalink), use that. Other online publications are assigned a DOI (digital object identifier); citing the DOI is preferable to citing a URL; precede it with “doi” and a colon. A lecture or performance should identify the venue and city (unless the city is part of the venue’s name).

Some optional elements may be included at the writer’s discretion, such as date of original publication, city of publication, and date of access. The placement of this information varies. Check OWL (Online Writing Lab at Purdue) for more information; the latest information should be available in June 2016.
HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER CHANGES:

- **Blocked quotations**
  Indent quotations of more than 4 lines ½ inch (one tab) from the left, not one inch/two tabs.

- **Qtd. in**
  Instead of putting “qtd. in” in the parenthetical citation to indicate you are quoting something that was quoted in the original, be sure your signal phrase makes that clear.

- **Losing some abbreviations**
  In a works cited list, common terms like *editor, edited by* and *translator* are no longer abbreviated. A short list of recommended abbreviations is included on pages 96–97.

- **Multiple authors, no more rule of four**
  When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the citation follow by *et al.* In previous versions, *et al.* was used for sources having four or more authors.

- **Listing pages**
  In works-cited lists (but not in-text citations) page numbers are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.*

- **Good-bye city!**
  The city of publication is no longer given for book sources, except in special cases. The rationale is that the location of a publisher serves little purpose today.

- **Issues are less of an issue**
  Citing issues of scholarly journals is now a bit clearer. They are identified now as “vol. 23, no. 3” rather than coded as “23.3” And, if the issue is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now cited along with the year. (vol. 23, no. 3, Mar. 2016.)

- **URLs and web sources**
  URLs are listed for web sources without the preceding http:// or https:// Angle brackets [ ] are no longer necessary. The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers found in most databases) is now encouraged. It is no longer necessary to cite the date of access for an online source.

- **No more n.d.**
  When a date for a source is not offered, you no longer need to use *n.d.* for “no date.”

- **Publishers**
  Publishers’ names are now given in full, with businessy words like *Company (Co.*) dropped. But abbreviations for academic presses (*U, P, and UP*) carry on.

- **Those pesky articles**
  For titles of periodicals that begin with *A, An, The,* the article is now treated as part of the title. The article is italicized and its first letter is capitalized. For instance, “*The Georgia Review*”

- **Pseudonyms for author names**
  It is now common and acceptable to use simplified names of famous authors, pseudonyms, online handles or screen names.

- **In-Text Citations are, for the most part, the same with a few changes:**
  - Times are now cited for video sources
  - The use of *my trans.* can be used to identify your own translation of non-English text

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1 Taken in part from Joyce Valenza’s April 16, 2016 post on School Library Journal website