**How to cite a book (MLA)**

How to cite a book an MLA style. Let's say you're writing a research project on 19th century immigration in New York City, and you find a book that tells vivid stories about living conditions in immigrant neighborhoods during that time. You really want to use some of those stories, so you have to tell your readers where you got them. How do you find all the information you need to cite the book in your research project?

First, let's look at the four elements that make up a works cited item in MLA style and where they can be found. You should get the author's name and the book's title from the title page, not the cover. Here's the author's name, and this is the book's title and subtitle. On the title page, you'll also find the publisher's name. The publisher's name is usually available on the copyright page as well, but not in this case. The year the book was published is on the copyright page.

So, to recap, you need these four elements in this order--the author's name, the title of the book, the publisher's name, and the year of publication. To create your works cited entry, write the author's last name first, followed by the first name. If the author has a middle initial, that will be listed last. This author doesn't, but suppose he did. If the book has more than one author, list the authors in the order they appear on the book's title page, and write the second author's name with the first name followed by the last name. This book doesn't have two authors, but suppose it did.

Following the author's name, include the book's title and the subtitle, if there is one. In this case, the book's title is *Low Life* and the subtitle is *Lures and Snares of Old New York*. In your works cited entry, italicize the book's title and subtitle, and separate the main title and subtitle with a colon. Next, give the name of the publisher, which you found in the title page or the copyright page. When listing the publisher, it's not necessary to include terms like company or incorporated. If the book is published by a university press, however, use the abbreviations U for “university” and P for “press.” Place a comma after the publisher's name, and then write the year the book was published. End with a period.

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