***How to Write Anything (or…How to Cite Anything)***

**How to cite a book in MLA style**

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How to cite a book in MLA style. Let’s say you’re writing a research paper on agriculture and the environment and you find a book on the surprising damage tomato farming can cause. How do you find all the information you need to cite the book in your paper? First let’s look at the six elements that make up a works cited item in MLA style, and where they can be found.

**00:00:21**

On the book’s cover you’ll find the author’s name and book’s title. On the copyright page you’ll find the publisher’s name, the city the book was published in, the year the book was published, and the medium, or whether you read this book in print or on an electronic reader.

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First, locate the author’s name and write his last name first, followed by his first name. If the author has a middle initial, that will be listed last.

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If the book has more than one author, list the authors in the order they appear on the book’s cover, and write the second author’s name with the first name followed by the last name.

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Following the author’s name, include the book’s title. In this case, the book’s title is ‘Tomatoland,’ but there’s also a subtitle: ‘How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit.’ A book’s subtitle appears after the main title, with a colon separating the title and subtitle.

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If this were an updated version of an older book, you would indicate this next by writing the edition number, as shown.

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Near the front of the book, you’ll find the cover page, which will include the book’s publisher as well as the city the book was published in.

**00:01:33**

Sometimes, as with this book, several publication cities are listed. To find specifically which city the book was published in, turn to the copyright page, which usually directly follows the title page. Here you’ll find the publisher listed once again, as well as the city this particular book was published in, and the year the book was published. If it’s a major city, you only need to include the city’s name, not the state.

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Next, list the name of the publishing company. When listing the publisher, it’s not necessary to include terms like ‘Press,’ ‘Inc.,’ or in this case, ‘LLC’ unless the book is published by a university press, in which case you would abbreviate by writing ‘UP.’ In this example, instead of ‘Andrews McMeel Publishing, LLC,’ simply writing ‘Andrews McMeel’ is sufficient.

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After listing the publishing company, include the year the book was published.

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Last, note the medium the book appears in. If you’re holding a physical copy of the book, write ‘Print.’ If you’re reading it on a computer, phone, or e-reader, say ‘E-book.’

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Once you’ve completed the works cited entry, be sure to double-check your punctuation. There should be a period following the author’s name. The title of the book should be italicized and be followed by a period, with a colon separating the main title and subtitle. There should be a colon following the city of publication. There should be a comma following the publisher, and there should be periods after the year of publication and after the medium of publication. Also, if your works cited entry is longer than one line, make sure you indent each line except for the very first one. This is called a hanging indent.

**00:03:24**

And that’s how you write a works cited entry for a book in MLA style.