WRITING GUIDE | MLA Citation: Title formats in Reference entries

How to format

- In MLA, ALL TITLES are written in **title case.**

  o **Title case** means to capitalize something the way most of us learn to write titles: capitalize all major words

- What kind of source is indicated by **TYPE STYLE:** titles are either **in ITALICS** or **in QUOTATION MARKS.**

One way to think of MLA titles is that *whole things made up of parts* are in italics; *parts of a whole* are in quotation marks.

Be sure to check a handbook for whether / when the title in a Works Cited entry needs to be followed by a period or a comma, etc. *(Note: Periods and commas go "inside" quotation marks in American English.)*

Title of …	Type style	Example
…a **book**	**ITALICIZED**	*Contemporary Art: World Currents*
…a **journal, magazine,** or **newspaper**	**ITALICIZED**	*Cinema Journal*
… **an entire website**	**ITALICIZED**	*Black Film Center/Archive*
… a **database**	**ITALICIZED**	*Academic Search Complete*
…an **article** in a journal, magazine, or newspaper	**"quotation marks"**	"Theodore Roethke's 'North American Sequence': Religious Awakening in the West"
… a **page from a website**	**"quotation marks"**	"Reading the Region: Northwest Schools of Literature"