

Bibliography/Works Cited: The Basics

Bibliography Formatting:

- On its own, separate page after the end of your paper.
- It should say Bibliography, or Works Cited, centered at the top of the page, like a paper title.
- Each entry has a “hanging indent”: the first line is *not* indented, but the second (and if necessary third) line *is* indented.
- Each entry is *single spaced*; but there is *double spacing* between entries.
- Entries are listed alphabetically by last name of author.
- When a written text has no author (e.g. some newspaper or magazine articles), it’s listed alphabetically by the first word of the title (excluding “A,” “An,” or “The”).
- A movie is listed by the first word of its title (again, excluding “A,” “An,” or “The”).
- If you don’t have all the necessary info for an entry, just include whatever you have.

Basic formatting:

- **Book:**

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year.

- **Article or Essay in an Anthology** (a book that collects essays by various authors):

Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Article or Essay.” *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Firstname Lastname. City: Publisher, Year: Page numbers of article or essay.

(“Ed.” entry is for the editor of the anthology)

- **Article in a newspaper or magazine:**

Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Article or Essay.” *Name of Newspaper or Magazine*, Publication Date and Year: page numbers of article or essay.

- **Feature-length film:**

Name of Film. Dir. Firstname Lastname. Perf. Firstname Lastname, Firstname Lastname, Firstname Lastname. Distributor, Year.

(“Dir.” entry is the name of the director. “Perf.” entries are the names of the main actors)

A Sample Bibliography

Following is a brief, sample bibliography. This shows different types of sources: a book (Alger); a movie (*American Beauty*); and an anthology article (Lewis).

Publication Dates: Note the “1868” on the Alger. This is optional, but for texts that were originally published a long time before the version you’re using, it can be helpful to your reader. The original publication date always goes right after the author’s name, while the publication date of the actual version or source you’re quoting from goes at the end, as noted below.

If you use an online style guide or citation generator (from the BMC library or similar) and it formats the entries a little differently than this, that is fine – don’t worry about it.

Works Cited

Alger, Horatio. 1868. *Ragged Dick, or Street Life in New York with the Boot-blacks*. New York: Penguin, 1997.

Matewan. Dir. John Sayles. Perf. Chris Cooper, James Earl Jones, Mary McDonnell. Cinecom, 1987.

Lewis, Oscar. “The Culture of Poverty.” 1966. *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*. Ed. George Gmelch and Walter P. Zenner. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2001: 269-78.

“Waging a Living.” *PBS*, www.pbs.org/pov/films/wagingaliving/. Accessed 5 December 2023.