Here, we want to provide you with a few key terms and abbreviations that are used in the MLA style book or Works Cited entries. These should help you read and create entries more easily and will help prepare you for the MLA quiz.

Anon. -- anonymous

anthology -- A single work containing a collection of different works by different authors. Often, a literature textbook is an anthology.

C. or ca. -- circa (Latin for "approximately" and used with imprecise dates)

Comp. -- compiler

dissertation -- a long paper (usually book-length and based on research) written in order to receive a doctoral degree.

Ed. -- editor or edition

et al. -- from Latin for "and others" (used to indicate additional authors when there are too many to list)

Fwd. -- foreword

Jour. -- journal

Lib. -- library

n.d. -- no date given (especially with websites)

n.p. -- no publisher given (especially with websites)

n.pag. -- no page number

P -- Press

par. -- paragraph

qtd. -- quoted

reference book -- a book you refer to for quick, authoritative information and don't typically read from cover to cover. Encyclopedias and dictionaries are examples of reference books.

Sec. or sect. -- section
MLA Glossary

Ser. -- series

Trans. -- translator

U -- University

Var. -- variant

Writ. -- written by or writer