



MLA Cross-Referencing

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In the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Essays*, Joseph Gibaldi writes:

To avoid unnecessary repetition in citing two or more works from the same collection, you may create a complete entry for the collection and cross-reference individual pieces to the entry. In a cross-reference, state the author and the title of the piece, the last name of the editor or editors of the collection, and the inclusive page or reference numbers.

It is still necessary to alphabetize all entries in a list of works cited by the last name of the author or editor, even if some of the entries are cross-references.

In the example below, John Doe is writing an essay on four short stories, all of which are anthologized in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. So that John does not need to repeat the lengthy publication information for *The Norton Anthology* in every entry in his Works Cited, he uses cross-references.

Doe 5

Works Cited

Abrams, M.H., ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*.
7th ed., 2 vols., Norton, 2000.

Joyce, James. "Araby." Abrams 2.2236-40.

Lawrence, D.H. "The Horse Dealer's Daughter." Abrams 2.2330-41.

---. "Odour of Chrysanthemums." Abrams 2.2316-20.

Mansfield, Katherine. "The Garden Party." Abrams 2.2423-33.

Main Entry: First, he creates an entry for *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* itself.

Cross-References: He refers to each of his four short stories by cross-referencing them back to the entry on *The Norton Anthology*.

Alphabetization: He ensures that he alphabetizes all five entries by the last name of the author (in the case of the stories) or the editor (in the case of the *Anthology*).

Duplicate Authors: He uses three hyphens to refer to the second story by the same author (D. H. Lawrence).

Works Cited

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed., MLA, 2009.