When you write your paper, be sure to follow the correct citation format given by your instructor. These examples are some of the most common ones for giving credit to sources in research papers, based on the current MLA Handbook. Not all sources are covered in this guide. If you don’t find the example you need here, ask library staff for help.

Understanding when and how to cite sources is an important part of the paper-writing process. Citing sources correctly allows you to give proper credit to the originator of the ideas or facts being used. It also allows the reader to assess the validity of the sources you’ve used and follow up by looking at those sources. Not citing sources correctly prevents these important steps and can also lead to inadvertent plagiarism. Cite information, facts, and ideas that are unique to a source and not common knowledge. Cite unique information whether it is quoted directly or paraphrased.

### Citing Sources in the Body of Your Paper

To give in-text credit to your sources, use these examples. Use the author name if given. If there is no author, use the title or beginning of the title (example below). Place the parenthetical reference at a pause in your sentence, or at the end if possible, inside the closing period (unless it is a block quote, see examples on page 3). Try to place the reference near the point being documented. The number in the parenthetical reference is the page number. Note that no punctuation is used between the author's name and the page reference. If citing a source with no page numbers, use the author's name only (Tompkins). The Works Cited page entry will note that the source does not have page numbers.

- **If you have one author**, either name the author in your sentence or include the author in the parentheses:

  Jane Tompkins calls the Western the "only true American entertainment form" (67).

  OR

  The Western is the only American entertainment form that belongs to us (Tompkins 67).

- **If the work has two or three authors**, name them all in your sentence or include them in the parentheses:

  Rico and Mano point out a number of books that are appropriate for quality multicultural education (83-90).

  OR

  The authors point out a number of books that are appropriate for quality multicultural education (Rico and Mano 83-90).

- **If the work has four or more authors** use the first author's name and "et al.", (Latin for "and others"):

  Medhurst et al. describe the relationship between Brezhnev and Nixon as "heated" (137).

  OR

  The authors describe the relationship between Brezhnev and Nixon as "heated" (Medhurst et al. 137).
• If two or more authors have the **same last name**, distinguish with the first initial:
  
  His language was “provocative and hilarious” (D. Sedaris 35).

• If two or more authors have the **same last name and same first initial**, distinguish with the first name:
  
  He expressed himself with both humor and a little edginess (David Sedaris 35).

• If citing more than one work by the same author, add the cited title, shortened or in full, after the author’s name. *Italicize* the title if it is a book title and use “quotation marks” if it is an article:
  
  The experience was something he never forgot (Sedaris, *Holidays* 67).

  OR

  He explained that if he hadn’t, she would make him very sorry (Sedaris, “My Family” 12).

• If a corporation or institution is the author, use the author name, followed by the page reference. If it is a very long name, try to include the name in the text and use only the page number in the parentheses, so reading is not interrupted by an extended parenthetical reference:
  
  According to a study sponsored by the National Research Council, the population of China around 1900 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).

• When you use the name of a corporate author in the parentheses, **shorten terms that are commonly abbreviated**:
  
  The population of China around 1900 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (Natl. Research Council 15).

  OR

  Pre-retirement planning also has a measurable effect on stress levels (NIMH 22).

• If there is no author, use the title of the source in your sentence or in parentheses. Use only the first few words if the title is long; use the full title if the title is short. *Italicize* the title if it is a book title and use “quotation marks” if it is an article:
  
  Croatians are unhappy about the time when the country was part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia (“Croatia in Crisis” 26).

  OR

  “Croatia in Crisis” maintains that Croatians are unhappy about the time when the country was part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia (26).

  OR

  The filmmakers, on the other hand, clearly presented Mozart’s death as murder (*Amadeus*).
If you are quoting or paraphrasing something that is itself a quotation, put the abbreviation "qtd. in" (quoted in) before the secondary source you cite in your parenthetical reference:

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 450).

If citing a source with no page numbers, use the author's name only (Tompkins). The Works Cited page entry will note that the source does not have page numbers. When citing PDF files that do show original page numbers, use the actual page numbers as shown in the examples above.

The Western is the only American entertainment form that belongs to us (Tompkins).

As already shown in some of the examples above, you should always cite direct quotations. Note that direct quotations should be used only when necessary to enhance meaning and should be used sparingly. Your paper should be primarily in your voice, with most cited information paraphrased or summarized. If you need help with paraphrasing or summarizing, see the current Handbook for Writers or other writing handbooks on reference in the library. Direct quotes, when used, should be smoothly integrated into what you are writing.

- Short quotations (four typed lines in your paper or less) should be integrated into your own writing and surrounded by quotation marks. For example:

  At the popular Sports Club, the heroine finds the “ubiquitous glass mugs of golden beer” (Lessing 135).

  OR

  At the popular Sports Club, Lessing’s heroine finds the “ubiquitous glass mugs of golden beer” (135).

- Long quotations (more than four typed lines in your paper) should be integrated into your writing, but you should not use quotation marks. Instead, indent all of the quotation as a block. A colon usually introduces a block quote, but the context may require a different punctuation mark or none at all. For example:

  At the conclusion of the book, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

    The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other boys began to shake and sob too.

    (Golding 186)

  OR

  At the conclusion of Golding’s book, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

    The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other boys began to shake and sob too. (186)
The Works Cited List

The Works Cited list appears at the end of your paper, on its own page, with the title **Works Cited** (not bolded or underlined) centered on the top, and continuing the page numbers of the text. A Works Cited list should include only the sources referred to in your text. If your instructor requires a more comprehensive list of references, including sources consulted but not actually cited, title the list Bibliography. A sample Works Cited list is on the last page of this handout.

When formatting the Works Cited list, **list entries in alphabetical order by the first author's last name and indent the second and subsequent lines of each entry 5 spaces. Double space all entries. Do not number entries. Do not add extra spaces between entries. Reverse the first author's name in citations; do not reverse subsequent author names.**

Leave **one** space after all punctuation in your citations, including colons, periods, and other concluding punctuation marks.

If there is no author's name, alphabetize by title, including but ignoring leading articles (A, An, The). Titles are indicated by the use of *italics*. Underlining is no longer acceptable in MLA style.

While database and online catalog printouts often do not capitalize book or article titles, the Works Cited page capitalizes all **significant** words in a title. For example, if the title in a printout is *A tale of two cities*, your citation title should be *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Ask your instructor if there are specific formatting requirements for your paper or project. If you have questions about writing citations, or if you would like your in-text citations or Works Cited list checked for accuracy, see library staff.

**Print Books**

The general format to follow for citing print books:

Last name, First name of author. *The Book Title*. Place of publication: Publisher's name, publication year. Print.

- **If you have a book with only one author:**


- **If you have a book with two or three authors**, (note that for multiple authors, only reverse the first author's name):


- **If you have four or more authors** either name all the authors or name only the first author followed by "et al."


  OR

- If the book has no author, begin with the title. Include but ignore leading articles (A, An, The) in the Works Cited list:

  OR


- If you have an author that is a corporation or an institution:

- If you have a government document, treat the government agency as the author:

- If you have an ERIC document or report:
  Mead, James V. *Looking at Old Photographs: Investigating the Teacher Tales that Novice Teachers Bring with Them.*

- If you have a pamphlet, use the same format you would for a book:

- If you have a book compiled by one or more editors, but with no signed articles or chapters:

- If you have a book that is a one-volume anthology (collection), with signed articles or chapters and an editor or editors, start with the article author, then the article title, then the information about the book itself (note that multi-volume reference works are cited following the next example):

- If you are citing a multi-volume specialized encyclopedia or dictionary, begin with the article author and title. Include the number of volumes in the set. Page numbers are not necessary.
If an article is from a non-specialized dictionary or encyclopedia, you needn't give full publisher information. If the article is signed, include the name of the author. If it is signed by initials, the author's full name will be spelled out elsewhere in the reference work (usually at the beginning or end) – find it by looking for a list of contributors. The first example given below is unsigned. The second is signed (J.M.M.).


AND


If you are citing a previously published scholarly article in a scholarly collection, begin with the original publication information, then add the publication information about the collection itself:


If you are citing a pro or con article from Taking Sides (publication information may vary for different Taking Sides volumes):


If you are citing an introduction (issue summary) or postscript from Taking Sides, treat the editor of the volume as an author (publication information may vary for different Taking Sides volumes):


AND


If you are citing a volume from Contemporary World Issues:

Legal Sources

Legal citations are based on *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* and the current *MLA Handbook*.

- If you are citing an entire statute in United States Code:

- If you are citing an individual part of U.S. Code, alphabetize under United States Code but cite as shown:

- If you are citing a U.S. Supreme Court decision (the US refers to *United States Reports*; the example is for a Supreme Court decision found on the Internet at the Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute):

- If you are citing a Connecticut statute, alphabetize under Connecticut and follow this example:

Media Sources

- If you are citing a television program (the date is the broadcast date):

- If you are citing a radio broadcast (the date is the broadcast date):

- If you are citing a DVD, list basic information – the title, director, performers, original copyright year, distributor, year produced, and format:

- If you are citing an interview that is broadcast, taped, or published, include as much information as you have:

- If you are citing a Films on Demand video:
Personal Interviews

- If you have conducted a personal interview, include the name of the interviewee, the kind of interview (Personal interview, Telephone interview, E-mail interview, etc.) and the date or dates:


Print Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers

Periodical citations vary according to what type of periodical you are using. If you have more than one author, see the author examples under Books. If you aren’t certain which examples to use, ask your instructor or library staff for help.

Use a page range (39-59) only if page numbers are consecutive; if page numbers are not consecutive (have intervening pages), write only the first page number followed by a + sign.

- If you have an article in a monthly magazine:


- If you have an article in a weekly magazine (like Time or Newsweek), include the day as well as the month:


- If you have an article from a scholarly journal, include both the volume and issue numbers. In the example below, 13.4, 13 is the volume number and 4 is the issue number:


- If you have an article in a newspaper in which the sections are lettered:


- If you have an article in a newspaper in which the sections are numbered:


- If you have an unsigned article in a newspaper or magazine, begin with the title in quotes:


- If you have a book or film review, include "Rev. of" and the title of the work being reviewed:

Electronic Sources – Databases

This section gives instructions and examples for articles from library databases. For Internet citations, see the last section.

Note: these citation practices are based on the *MLA Handbook* and may vary from the citation style suggested on database help screens or in other style handbooks. If you have questions about electronic citations, ask library staff for help.

Use the examples below when citing full-text electronic databases. In general, follow the publication style for the kind of work you are citing, then add the final elements that distinguish it as an electronic source. If you are citing more than one author, see the Books section for more examples showing how to cite multiple names. If the article has no author, begin with the title.

If you are citing a database that does not have an example below, follow the general format or ask library staff for help. If you are citing something from the Internet, and not from a library database, see the last section for examples.

Abbreviations: If page numbers are not known, use n. pag. If there is no article date, use n.d. If citing an ebook from a database and the place of publication is not known, use n.p. If the name of the publisher is not known, use n.p.

The general format for databases:

Last name, First name of author. "The Title of the Article." *Periodical name*  day month year of article: pages (if known).


Citing Magazines

The basic citation is the same as for print magazines, only the database information changes. For magazines in other databases, use the same format, but give the title of the database you are using. See library staff if you need help.

- Citing a magazine in *MasterFILE Premier*:


- Citing a magazine in *Academic Search Premier*:


- Citing a magazine in *Academic OneFile*:


- Citing a magazine in *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*:

Citing Journals

The basic citation is the same as for print journals, only the database information changes. For journals in other databases, use the same format, but give the title of the database you are using. Some journal articles are linked to a second database: make sure you cite the database the article is actually in.

- Citing a journal in MasterFile Premier (the volume number – 13 – and issue number – 4 – follow the journal title):

- Citing a journal in Academic Search Premier (the volume number – 13 – and issue number – 4 – follow the journal title):

- Citing a journal in Academic OneFile (the volume number – 13 – and issue number – 4 – follow the journal title):

- Citing a journal in Opposing Viewpoints in Context:
  Tollefson, Jeff. "A Light in the Forest: Brazil's Fight to Save the Amazon and Climate-change Diplomacy."

- Citing a journal in Literature Resource Center:

Citing Newspapers

- Citing a newspaper article in Newspaper Source Plus (note that articles from this database do not have page numbers):
  Mills, Steve. "Executions Decline Nationwide with Court Intervention, Fewer Death Sentences." Chicago Tribune

- Citing a newspaper article in ProQuest Newspapers:
Citing e-books

These examples are for full-text books available from library subscription databases. To cite full-text e-books on the Internet, follow the general directions in the last section of this handout.

• Citing an article from an e-book in *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*.

• Citing a full-text e-book from *Ebsco eBook Collection*:

• Citing a full-text e-book from *ebrary*:

• Citing an article from a full-text e-book in *Credo Reference*:

• Citing an article from *Encyclopaedia Britannica Academic Edition database*:

• Citing an article from *Britannica’s Original Sources*:

• Citing an article or chapter in a full-text e-book from the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*:

• Citing an article or chapter from the *Oxford Digital Reference Shelf*:
Citing an article from an e-book in the *U.S. History in Context*:

Malvasi, Mark G., and Carey M. Roberts. "U. S. Civil War: Did Slavery Cause the Civil War?" *History in Dispute.*


Citing an article from an e-book in *Literature Resource Center*:


Citing an article from an ebook on the Internet: See the last example in the next section.
ELECTRONIC SOURCES – INTERNET

Follow the general format below. Omit the author name if it is not available. The title is in quotation marks if an article is part of a larger work; the title is italicized if it stands alone. Internet site name is the name of the overall website if it is different from the title of the work being cited. The publisher or sponsor is the organization responsible for the website; if there is no publisher/sponsor, use N.p. Next, put the publication date (note that a comma separates the publisher from the publication date). If there is no date, use n.d.

After the publication date, put Web as the medium. Finish with the date accessed.

The general format for Internet citations:

Last name, First name of author. "The Title of the Article." Internet site name. Publisher or sponsor of the website, Day Month Year of publication. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

- Citing an Internet article with an author and a site name:

- Citing an Internet article with an author and no sponsor/publisher:

- Citing an Internet article that is not part of a larger work, with no author:

- Citing an Internet article with no author and no publication date:

- Citing a full-text e-book that is published on the Web (see the Database section for e-books published in library databases):

- Citing a YouTube video with a director:

- Citing YouTube videos without a director:
Sample Works Cited Page

Works Cited

American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV-TR.*


