Citing Sources & MLA Style

Why cite? To give credit to the authors and researchers you relied on to develop your argument or point of view AND to demonstrate steps in your research process and allow your reader to identify and locate the resources cited in your work.

When & what to cite | Whenever you include information that is spoken, created, or written by someone other than yourself, you are required to give full credit for each use. Cite facts (except for common knowledge, e.g. names of well-known people and events), data, journal articles, books, web pages, video, images, radio, television, and a conversation with a friend.

Questions to ask about each source
WHO is the author?
WHEN was it created?
WHAT is the title of the item?
WHERE is the item located or WHERE did it come from?

Elements of a citation
✓ Author
✓ Item title (book, article, web page)
✓ Source title (journal, database, web site)
✓ Version or volume
✓ Issue or number
✓ Publisher
✓ Publication date
✓ DOI or URL (web address)

MLA Style & Formatting | The Modern Language Association created MLA Style for use in the fields of language and literature.

In-text citations | Every time you quote or paraphrase information from a source you must create an in-text citation. The descriptive word(s) that you use in your in-text citation will correspond with the first word(s) of the source’s full citation in your Works Cited page.

Examples of in-text citations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>In-text citation will include</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author first in Works Cited page + author named in sentence</td>
<td>(Page number)</td>
<td>(26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author first in Works Cited page + author not named in sentence</td>
<td>(Author’s last name Page number)</td>
<td>(Young 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No author + title listed first in Works Cited page</td>
<td>(First few words of title)</td>
<td>(“The Universal”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Works Cited page | MLA style requires that a Works Cited page, containing full citations of all sources used, appear on a separate page at the end of your work. Works Cited page entries must correspond to your in-text citations and be listed alphabetically. Double-space all citations just like the rest of your paper unless otherwise instructed (not double-spaced here to save space). All lines after the first of each entry should be indented one-half inch from the left margin (this is called a ‘hanging indent’).

Examples of full citations

**Book**

**Chapter in a Book**

**Print Article**

**Online Article, with a DOI**

**Online Article, no DOI**

**Webpage**

Sample Works Cited Page

For more on MLA Style, see [MLA Style Center - https://style.mla.org/](https://style.mla.org/)