Image Citation Guide

Below are sample citations for an image or reproduction of an original work of visual art (lithograph, painting, photograph, sculpture, etc.)

MLA format
From a print source
Artist’s lastname, firstname. Title. Year. Institution/collection. Title of print source. Author’s/editor’s firstname lastname. Publication city: Publisher, year. Page/plate number. Medium of reproduction.

From an Internet source
Artist’s lastname, firstname. Title. Year. Institution/collection name. Database or website title. Database or website publisher/sponsor. Web. Date of access.

APA format
From a print source
Artist’s lastname, firstinitial. (Year). Title [Medium]. City, state: institution/collection.

From an Internet source
Artist’s lastname, firstinitial. (Year). Title [Medium]. City, state: institution/collection. Retrieved from <URL>

Notes:

URLs are optional, but recommended. Place the <URL> within angle brackets at the end of the citation.

In a presentation, captions appearing below an image typically begin with the abbreviation ‘Fig.’ (for Figure) followed by an Arabic numeral and a brief description. If a caption provides complete information about the image, a bibliographic entry in a Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page is not required.

For more information, see:
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. [Sections 5.6.2d & 5.7.6]
Citing original works of art – The citation of an original work differs from the citation of an image or reproduction of a work found in a book or Internet source. Example:

Artist’s last name, first name. Title of work. Year. Medium. Name of institution/collection, city where collection is located.

Credit or attribution lines for images with open content licenses, such as Creative Commons: