

How to Cite your Sources (MLA Style)

The reason to cite your sources is to give credit where it is due and to allow your reader to find and consult the sources you used to support your argument. You do not have to cite “common knowledge,” or knowledge most students would have coming into the course, but if you are in doubt, cite!

There are three basic steps to citing your sources:

- 1) **In-line Citations:** Every time you quote or use facts/evidence/ideas from a source, provide an in-line (or “parenthetical”) citation. After the sentence in which you quote, or refer to facts/evidence/ideas that are not your own, include the author name and page number (if available.)

Example: “In 1971, Detroit lost 100,000 manufacturing jobs” (Frank 35).

- 2) **Works Cited Page:** At the end of your essay, provide a “Works Cited” page, in which you list every source you cited in the text. (This is not a bibliography, so you don’t have to include every source you consulted, only those sources from which you quote or use facts/evidence/ideas.)

Example:

Works Cited

Association of College & Research Libraries. “Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.” *Association of College & Research Libraries*. American Library Association, 18 Jan. 2000. Web. 22 Apr. 2014.

Bowles-Terry, Melissa. “Library Instruction and Academic Success: A Mixed-Methods Assessment of a Library Instruction Program.” *Evidence Based Library & Information Practice* 7.1 (2012): 82-95. *Library Literature & Information Science Full Text (H.W. Wilson)*. Web. 22 Apr. 2014.

- 3) **Proper Citation Format:** Format your “Works Cited” citations in MLA (Modern Language Association) Style.

The site where you find your primary sources may have an automatic citation generator (usually towards the bottom of the page) that can provide you with the citation in the format of your choice.

There are also numerous sites online that provide examples of MLA formatting for most types of sources. Google “MLA Style Guide,” and you will find a number of them. I will include some common examples (including primary source examples on the attached page).

Do your best to provide as much information as you can about the source. If you cannot find an example that perfectly matches your source, use the following general rules about what information to provide, in what order (and punctuation):

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

Common Types of Sources, and How to Cite them using MLA Style:

Book w/ one Author

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.
Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

Book w/ more than one Author

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

Book w/ no Author:

Encyclopedia of Indiana. Somerset, 1993.

Anthology or Collection (e.g., Collection of Essays)

Hill, Charles A., and Marguerite Helmers, editors. *Defining Visual Rhetorics*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004.

A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.
Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

Article in a Reference Book (e.g. Encyclopedias, Dictionaries)

"Ideology." *The American Heritage Dictionary*, 3rd ed., 1997.

Entire Website

Last name, First name. "Section of Website." *Title of the Web site*. Version/Edition. Name of publisher or sponsor. Date of publication. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

Lib. of Cong. U.S. Govt. Web. 10 February 2012. <<http://www.loc.gov/>>

Articles and Essays

Last name, First name. *Title*. *Title of the Web site*. Version or edition. Publisher or N.p. Day Month Year of publication or n.d. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

Brief History of the National Parks. *Lib. of Cong.* N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2016.
<<http://www.loc.gov/collection/national-parks-maps/special-presentation/>>.

Cartoons and Illustrations

Last Name, First Name. "Title." Illustration. *Newspaper title* [Location] Day Month Year of publication: page number. *Title of the Web site*. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

Franklin, Benjamin. "Join or Die." Illustration. *The Pennsylvania Gazette* 9 May 1754. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002695523/>>.

Films

Film Title. Dir. First name Last Name. Distributor, year of release. *Title of the Web site*. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

Bargain Day, 14th Street, New York. Photog. Frederick S. Armitage. American Mutoscope and Biograph Company, 1905. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. 27 Jan. 2016.
<<http://www.loc.gov/item/00694373>>.

Government Publications

Government. Agency name. Title of Publication. Day Month Year of publication: page numbers. Place of publication: Publisher, Year published. Title of the Web site. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

United States House of Representatives. "Proceedings. 2nd Congress, 2nd sess." *Annals of Congress*. 747-48. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1849. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. 10 Feb. 2012.
<<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=llac003.db&recNum=370>>.

Newspapers

Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* [city] Day Month Year published. *Title of the Web site*. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

"Free Education While You Wait For Orders Home." *The Stars and Stripes* 6 Dec. 1918. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<http://www.loc.gov/item/sn88075768/1918-12-06/ed-1>>.

Photographs:

Last name, First name. *Title*. Date of composition. Photograph. Institution, City. *Title of the Web site*. Web. Day Month Year of access. <opt. URL>.

O'Sullivan, Timothy H. *Incidents of the War. A Harvest of Death*. c1865. Photograph. *Lib. of Cong.*, Washington D.C. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. 27 Jan. 2016.
<<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003001110/PP/>>.