Citation techniques suggested here are based on MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Full details are given at the end of this guide).

1. The list of works cited

The list of works cited provides full information about all the sources used in a paper.

The list starts on a new page at the end of a paper and is headed Works Cited. Entries are listed alphabetically using double-spacing. Each work listed begins flush with the left-hand margin, and any subsequent lines in the entry are indented one-half inch (five spaces) from the left-hand margin.

Include as much information as is relevant and available.

An entire web site

Basic format:

*Name of Web Site*. Name of editor of the site (if given). Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:


An article on a web site

Basic format:

Author. “Article Title”. *Name of Web Site*. Date of posting/revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with site. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

Online books (including dictionaries, encyclopedias and reports)

Basic format:

Author. Title of Work. Edition (if given). Publication information for original print version. (place of publication: publisher, date), if given. Title of Electronic Work. (eg. title of internet site). Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:


Part of an online book


An article from an online journal or magazine

Basic format:

Author. “Article Title.” Journal Title. volume. issue (year): number of pages or paragraphs. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:


An article or publication from an electronic database

Basic format:

Author. “Title of Article.” Publication Name Publication date: vol (if necessary). page number. Database name. Service name. Library name, City. Date of access <electronic address of the database>.

Example:


E-mail

Basic format:

Author. “Subject of Message (if any)”. E-mail to person’s name. Date of message.

Example:

Article from an online newspaper

Basic format:

Author. “Article Title”. Newspaper Title. volume issue (year) : number of pages or paragraphs. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:


Online government publication


2. Citing sources in the text

References in the text, called text references or parenthetical citations, must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited. The text reference usually includes an author name and location in the text being cited.

Examples follow, using paragraph number to show the exact location in the text:

Native peoples have little to lose by adopting these practices (Johnson, par. 3).

Viviano sees advantages in this line of defense (par. 3).

Buddhist organizations have taken a somewhat different approach ... (Inada, par. 2).

NOTE: The word "paragraph" is abbreviated as "par." in the examples above.

For more detailed information see:


For information on how to reference print sources see: MLA STYLE: PRINT SOURCES: referencing guide