

Citing Sources in MLA or APA

Why cite sources

- Your teacher requires it.
- Your readers can check your sources for accuracy or context.
- Your topic and/or writing may inspire your readers to research your topic in more depth and the bibliography/works cited list can give them a place to start.
- In order to avoid plagiarism, it is important to “Give credit where credit is due” and always identify the source of non-original material used in your paper.
- A quick scan of your citations gives your readers an idea of the caliber of your sources and thus the caliber of your exposition.

When citing sources

- Be consistent with style elements.
- Include all available appropriate information to enable readers to find your source.
- Adhere to style guidelines so that your readers can quickly determine the format* of the original source.
- Create bibliographic/work cited citations on-the-fly as you research your topic.
- Create a citation for each useful resource whether you quote or paraphrase anything from it in the final paper or not – sources not cited within the body of the paper should not be included in the final works cited list.

*Format may be book, journal article, newspaper article, Web page, interview, radio broadcast, doctoral thesis, government report, blog, and so on. Each format will require slightly different information in the citation to enable future retrieval.

Style Guides

There are many style manuals that provide guidelines for specific disciplines, industries, or uses. A few of the most popular manuals are listed below; there are others so be sure to use the manual recommended by your instructor.

Legal documents

- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation
- ALWD Citation Manual

Journalism

- The Associated Press Stylebook
- The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage

Academic – Humanities, English, Philosophy

- MLA Style Manual
- Chicago Manual of Style
- A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Terabian)

Academic – Social Sciences, Psychology

- American Psychological Association (APA) Style Guide
- American Sociological Association Style Guide

Academic – Sciences

- ACS Style Guide

- Geoscience Reporting Guidelines
- IEEE Style
- Scientific Style and Format; The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers

Online Writing Style Resources

American Psychological Association (APA)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Modern Language Association (MLA)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Examples of Citations

Below are example citations for the most frequently used sources in both APA and MLA formats. The first example in each set is generic to illustrate the elements and punctuation of the citation; the second example illustrates an actual citation.

Remember that there are guidelines for a huge array of sources and the examples below are the most basic. For help with items that deviate from the basics below, such as have more than one author, come from a series, or are contained within an anthology, refer to the appropriate manual or online resource.

Book

APA

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Calfee, R. C., & Valencia, R. R. (1991). *APA guide to preparing manuscripts for journal publication*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

MLA

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.
Medium of Publication.

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

Journal Article

APA

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Henry, W. A., III. (1990, April 9). Making the grade in today's schools. *Time*, 135, 28-31.

MLA

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages.
Medium of publication.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time* 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71.
Print.

Newspaper Article

APA

Schultz, S. (2005, December 28). Calls made to strengthen state energy policies. *The Country Today*, pp. 1A, 2A.

MLA

Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets County's Uninsured Patients." *Washington Post* 24 May 2007: LZ01. Print.

Interview

APA

No personal communication is included in your reference list; instead, parenthetically cite the communicator's name, the fact that it was personal communication, and the date of the communication in your main text only.

(E. Robbins, personal communication, January 4, 2001).

A. P. Smith also claimed that many of her students had difficulties with APA style (personal communication, November 3, 2002).

MLA

Purdue, Pete. Personal interview. 1 Dec. 2000.

Gaitskill, Mary. Interview with Charles Bock. *Mississippi Review* 27.3 (1999): 129-50. Print.

Online Resource

APA

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). *Title of document*. Retrieved from <http://Web address>

MLA

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

Reference List

Angeli, E., Wagner, J., Lawrick, E., Moore, K., Anderson, M., Soderlund, L., and Brizee, A. (Aug 9 2010). APA Style. In *Purdue online writing lab*. Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Hacker, D. (2009). *Rules for writers*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

List of style guides. (n.d.) In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_style_guides.

Russell, T., Brizee, A., and Angeli, E. (Aug 9 2010). MLA formatting and style. In *Purdue online writing lab*. Retrieved from
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.