

Citation for Beginners

Glossary

To cite/ make a citation: to say where your information comes from

Parentheses/ Parenthetical: brackets ()

In-text: in the essay or report

MLA: citation style used in English and History

APA: citation style used in Sciences and Social Sciences

How to Use In-Text Citations (MLA)

When you write an essay, you include information from somewhere else either in quotation marks (if it is copied word-for-word), like this:

John Diefenbaker was well-known for the way he spoke. "He developed a distinctive speaking style that allowed him to talk directly to his audience; his speeches were both inspiring and popular." (Williams).

Or in your own words, like this:

Diefenbaker was not at all popular with people from Quebec. (Monroe).

Whether in quotation marks or paraphrased, you always have to put the author's name after the information, in parentheses (brackets). If it is from a book, you should also include the page number. This way, the reader of your essay can look on your Works Cited list to find out where the information came from.

If the author's name is not available, put the title of the article.

This is called in-text citation.

How to Make a Works Cited List (MLA)

The author's last name in brackets alone isn't enough – you also need to have things like the book or website title and dates published. This is where the Works Cited list comes in.

The Works Cited list is a separate page at the end of your essay. It lists all the sources that you cited in your essay, in ALPHABETICAL order.

There is a specific format for each kind of source, whether it is a book, news article, web site, or video.

You can use websites like www.bibme.org to help you with citations or if you are using Microsoft Word, you can use the References function to format your essay for you. If you are using an online source, it will often have the citation for you. ALWAYS double check the format for yourself!

Here's what the Works Cited list would look like from the sample essay:

Works Cited

Munroe, Susan. "Prime Minister John Diefenbaker." *About.com Canada Online*. About.com, 2014. Web. 02 Jan. 2014.

Williams, Patricia. "John Diefenbaker". *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Toronto: Historical Canada, 2008. Web. 02 Jan 2014.

MLA PRACTICE WORKSHEET

Use your handouts on MLA style to complete the following by:

- 1) filling in the in-text citation in the sentence
- 2) identifying the type of quote used in the sentence (direct or paraphrased)
- 3) writing out the complete works cited entry

Book with One Author

According to Eric Schlosser, “fast food chains are now gaining access to the last advertising-free outposts of American life”: public schools ().

Taken from: *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser, page 51, published in New York by Perennial in 2002.

Works Cited Entry:

Notice that
the 2nd line is
indented!

Book with Four Authors

The authors assert that “Most multicultural readers approach diversity in one of two ways” ().

Taken from *Rereading Culture* by Gary Columbo, Robert Cullen, Linda Laslow, and Bonnie Lisle, page 5. The book was published in 2007 by Bedford/St. Martins in Boston.

Works Cited Entry:

Article from a Popular Magazine

According to the researchers, hippos like to stay in the water as much as possible on hot days ().

This fact was taken from *National Geographic*. The article was titled “Land of the Surfing Hippos.” It was published in August 2004 on page 100. The author is Bill Pomo.

Works Cited Entry:

Article from a Website

Flintoff writes, “The religious board that supervises elections has disqualified thousands of independent and reform candidates” ().

This article was taken from npr.org -- the website for National Public Radio. It is written by Corey Flintoff and is titled “Iranian Elections Provide View into Power Dynamics.” The article was published on March 12, 2008. It was accessed on March 13, 2008. It is a web source.

Works Cited Entry:

Article from a Newspaper

The author writes about one family that is trying to reduce its toxic footprint; in other words, they are trying to live more “green.” “The Goode family has not purchased deodorant for a year,” the writer says, “and they have not bought toothpaste or shampoo either” ().

This quote came from the *Toronto Star*. The reporter who wrote the story is Catherine Porter. Her article was titled “How a Family Reduced Its Toxic Footprint.” The article appeared on page E4 on March 16th in 2009.

Works Cited Entry:

This worksheet is adapted from:

http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CDIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fteacherweb.com%2FNY%2FArlington%2FAMS-Team5%2FMLA-practise-worksheet-2012.docx&ei=b9tOUtCzPMfqAGYzoGIAQ&usg=AFQjCNHEGGV9ERXxOZ2S46RWni83j1ulfa&sig2=1LlorKm_ZmNdcBiLDFeE7A

