

MLA Format for Citing Sources/Avoiding Plagiarism

Citing sources when writing a paper is crucial, as the absence of sources is considered plagiarism. When citing your sources, you must make sure to cite them both in text, using parentheses at the end of the sentence which is relevant to your source. You also have to include a works cited page at the end of the paper in MLA format. Remember, you must cite both information (statistics/facts) and ideas that are not your own to avoid plagiarism.

Citing A Source Involves Two Steps:

Step One: In-Text Citations

Use parenthetical documentation inside the essay to indicate ideas, quotations, statistics, or other information from the researched source. “In-Text” means that the source is found at the end of the sentence containing information from the source in parentheses. This helps make it clear exactly what source gave you information.

To create an in-text citation, use the author’s last name and page number in parentheses at the end of the relevant sentence. Do not use a comma or use the abbreviation for the word page. If you use a quote, put the parenthetical citation after the quotation marks, but before the period.

Ex) Based on the correlation between high-school and college success, English teachers have been described as “superior to all others” (Brusselsprouts 4).

If you have already referred to the author's name in the sentence, you only need to put the page number in the parentheses.

Ex) According to Brusselsprouts, English classes best prepare students for college (4).

Step Two: Works Cited Page

At the end of your paper, you must include a works cited page. This consists of the full citation of every source used for writing the paper. The works cited page must be in alphabetical order and follow correct MLA formatting. To learn about the specifics of what is required for each source (including books, articles, websites, etc.), visit [Purdue OWL MLA Guide](#). Each source has slightly different requirements, so refer to the guide listed above and the examples below.

Ex) Works Cited page consisting of a book, article, and website which had no author listed.

Works Cited

“How to Cite Sources.” *The Webster Web*. Fall 2005. Stephen F. Austin High School. 20 Nov.

2005 <thewebsterweb.com/citingsources>.

“Loving Teacher Shares Insights about MLA formatting.” *The New York Times*. 10 Nov. 2005:

B12.

Webster, Stacy. *Why English Teachers Rock the World*. Austin: Pseudopress. 2005.

Sourcing Websites:

Author (s). Name of Page. Date of posting. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <URL of site>.

Ex) Felluga, Dino. Undergraduate Guide to Literary Theory. 17 Dec. 1999. Purdue University. 15 Nov. 2000 <omni.cc.purdue.edu/~dfelluga/theory2.html>.

Article On A Web Site:

Author (s). “Article Title”. Name of web site. Date of posting. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <URL of site>

Ex) Poland, Dave. “The Hot Button.” Roughcut. 26 Oct. 1998. Turner Network Television. 28 Oct. 1998 <<http://www.roughcut.com>>.

Formatting Tips:

Sources should be in alphabetical order and double spaced.

Do not number sources.

Left align the first line of entry and indent all other lines.