

MLA—How to Cite Sources and Avoid Plagiarism

What needs to be cited? Anything you learned from an outside source (even if reworded)!

- Direct quotations AND summarized/paraphrased material in your own words

Two parts of citing

- List of all sources at the end of your paper on a page called **Works Cited**
- Show where sources are used within your paper via **in-text citations** and **signal phrases**
 - (**Important:** It is NOT enough to simply list the sources at the end of your paper!)

How to cite sources within the paper

- Always cite by author if source has an author
- If source has no author, then cite by title of the work
- Page number required for direct quotes

Two ways to cite within the paper

- **In-text citation format**
 - **Author** (author page) or (Smith 29)
 - **No Author** (“Title of Work” page) or (“ABC Article” 14)
- **Signal Phrase:** According to the Author... Author says ... As Author notes...

Note: MLA signal phrase verbs should be **present tense**.

Examples of in-text citations and signal phrases

- OSU offers eight business degrees (Smith and Jones). ← **citation for paraphrase**
- Smith and Jones believe OSU is a top-notch school. ← **signal phrase for paraphrase**
- One expert notes, “OSU is quite affordable” (Smith 38). ← **citation for direct quote**
- According to Smith, “OSU is a winning school” (38). ← **signal phrase for direct quote**
- OSU has a top veterinary school (“College Times”). ← **citation for paraphrase with no author**
- “College Times” notes, “OSU is fabulous” (141). ← **signal phrase for direct quote with no author**

Common Works Cited Examples

Book

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Smith, Kathy. *The Name Book*. Penguin Publishing, 2014. ← **One author**

Smith, Kathy, and John Jones. *The Name Book*. Penguin Publishing, 2014. ← **Two authors**

Smith, Kathy, et al. *The Name Book*. Penguin Publishing, 2014. ← **Three or more authors (list first and “et al.”)**

Website

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Website Name*, Publisher, Publication Date, URL link.

Loom, Sue. “Internet Speeds.” *CNN*, 15 May 2016, www.9/cnn.com. ← **Publisher is the same as website name**

Liu, Jon. “Fun Facts.” *Love Fun*, Heart Publishing, 20 June 2017, www.33.ht.com. ← **Publisher different from website**

“Learning to Hem Pants.” *Sewing*, www.22.sew.com. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. ← **No author, so begin with title of the article. If no publication date, show date accessed.**

Article from a Database

Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal*, volume, issue, date, pages. *Database*, doi# or URL.

Jones, John. “Heart Health Article.” *Journal of Cardiology*, vol. 50, no. 9, 2011, pp. 98–101. *Academic Search Complete*, doi: 10.32619. ← **If no doi# then provide URL of permalink.**

APA—How to Cite Sources and Avoid Plagiarism

What needs to be cited? Anything you learned from an outside source (even if reworded)!

- Direct quotations AND summarized/paraphrased material in your own words

Two parts of citing

- List of all sources at the end of your paper on a page called **References**
- Show where sources are used within your paper via **in-text citations** and **signal phrases**
 - (**Important:** It is NOT enough to simply list the sources at the end of your paper!)

How to cite sources within the paper

- Always by author and year if source has an author
- If source has no author, then cite by title of the work and year
- Page number required for direct quotes. If no page number, use paragraph #, section name, or both.
e.g., (Smith, 2017, para. 3) (Smith, 2017, Methods section) (Smith, 2017, Methods section, para 3).

Two ways to cite within the paper

- **In-text citation format**
 - **Author** (author, year, page) or (Smith, 2019, p. 29)
 - **No Author** (“Title of Work,” year, page) or (“ABC Article,” 2019, p. 14)
- **Signal Phrase**
 - According to the Author (year)... Author (2019) said ... As Author (2017) noted...
Note: APA signal phrase verbs should be **past tense**.

Examples of in-text citations and signal phrases

- OSU offers eight business degrees (Smith & Jones, 2019). ← **citation for paraphrase**
- Smith and Jones (2019) claimed OSU is a top-notch school. ← **signal phrase for paraphrase**
- One expert noted, “OSU is quite affordable” (Rogers et al., 2017, p. 38). ← **citation for direct quote**
- According to Rogers et al. (2017), “OSU is a winning school” (p. 38). ← **signal phrase for direct quote**
- OSU has a top veterinary school (“College Times,” 2016, p. 44). ← **citation for direct quote with no author**
- “College Times” (2016) said, “OSU is a great school” (p. 44). ← **signal phrase for direct quote with no author**

How to cite multiple authors

- 1 or 2 authors → cite both each time.
- 3 or more authors → cite first author and “et al.” from the very beginning ex. (Smith et al., 2014, p. 31)

Common Reference Examples

Book

Last Name, First/Middle Initials. (Year). *Title of book in lowercase and italics* (edition). Publisher.

White, F. (2010). *Book of adventures* (11th ed.). Penguin Publishing.

Website

Last Name, First/Middle Initials. (Year). *Title of article in lowercase and italics*. Name of Website. [http://...](#)

Smith, J. K. (2019). *All about heart disease*. CNN. [http://cnn.com...](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, June 1). *Low platelet count article*. [http://cdc.gov....](#)

(Note: In above entry, author (CDC) is same as website name (CDC), so do not include website name before URL.)

Article from a Database

Last Name, First/Middle Initials. (Year). Title of article in lowercase. *Title of Journal, volume(issue)*, pages. doi

Harper, D. M. (2016). Treating ulcers article. *American Journal*, 17(8), 58–72. [https://doi.org/10.14276/2980](#)