### **Citing online sources**

Generally, follow the same principals of parenthetical citations to cite online sources. Refer to the author, and if possible, a permanent identifier that would be the same for any reader.

**Examples:**

The economy will rebound with the new monetary policies (Smith).

Solar power will become the primary source of energy (Williams 2).

### **Citing online sources with no author**

If there is no author, use the title that begins the citation, either the article or website title. Be sure it also takes the same formatting, i.e. articles are in quotes and website titles are italicized. Shorten / abbreviate the name of the source but ensure that your reader can easily identify it in your works cited (abbreviate the title starting with the same word in which it is alphabetized).

**Examples:**

Elephants are thought to be one of the smartest mammals (“Smart Elephants”).

Nineteen men and women were convicted (Salem Witchcraft Trials).

***Note:*** Ideally, when citing online sources, try to reference the source within your sentence, with either the author or the title to avoid writing a parenthetical citation.

### **Where to put the parenthetical citations:**

* Place parenthetical citations at the end of the sentence you are paraphrasing and quoting. For example: The destruction of the argentine is due to many socioeconomic factors (Taylor 33).
* Even when quoting, place the parenthetical citations after the quotations.

**Example:**

“Mamma always said stupid is as stupid does” (Gump 89).

**Entire Websites**:

-Cite the main title of the website in italics.

-No numbers are needed.

-When an entire site does not have a title, write Home page using regular font.

1. Example with title of entire website, no author or sponsor

The site has biographical information and numerous links to websites dedicated to Twain (The Official Web Site of Mark Twain).

1. Example with author of entire website:

Summer flowering bulbs need to be replanted each spring when the ground is warm

(Goldstein).

1. Example of website, no title:

Hemingway started his writing career at The Kansas City Star (Hemingway Home page).

**Page from a Website**:

If the webpage has no author or sponsor use an abbreviated version of the title in

quotation marks. Example with title of webpage, no author or sponsor:

Amphibian populations are in decline in many areas of the world (“Amphibians”).

### **Long quotes:**

When quoting four lines or more, indent every line you are quoting by one inch (or 10 spaces) and do not use quotes.

**Example:**

The use of nuclear weapons in today’s society is strikingly alarming. Though the United States is the only country to employ it in the past, they are at the same time the country that condemns its use the most. While this may seem hypocritical, is it the most proper action for the United States to make as the global leader. (Taparia 9)

**Online Sources**

**Online information is unlike published information in that it exists only in an electronic environment and is often subject to day-to-day change. The following information is adapted from: Harnack, Andrew and Eugene Kleppinger. Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Resources. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2000.**

**For writers creating in-text citations and Works Cited lists for online sources, the *MLA Handbook* provides the following recommendations:**

* **Download or print any online material you plan to use, in case it becomes inaccessible later.**
* **Don't introduce a hyphen at the break of a URL between two lines.**
* **If you must divide a URL between two lines, break it only after a slash (/).**

1. **World Wide Web Site**

When you document sources from the World Wide Web, the MLA suggests that your Works Cited entries contain as many items from the following list as are relevant and available:

* + Name of the author, editor, compiler, translator, or site maintainer (if available and relevant), alphabetized by last name and followed by any appropriate abbreviations, such as *ed.*;
  + Title of a poem, short story, article or other short work within a book, scholarly project, database, or periodical, in quotation marks;
  + Title of a book, in italics or underlined;
  + Publication information for any print version;
  + Title of a scholarly project, database, or periodical, or professional or personal site (in italics or underlined), or, for a professional or personal site with no title, a description such as *home page;*
  + Name of the editor of a scholarly project or database (if known);
  + Version number (if not part of the title) or, for a journal, the volume, issue, or other identifying number;
  + Name of the institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the Web site;
  + Date you accessed the source; and
  + URL (in angle brackets).

Although no single entry will contain all these items of information, most Works Cited entries for Web sources will include the following basic information:

1. **Online Document**

**Author's name (last name first). Document title. Date of Internet publication. Date of access <URL>.**

Shapiro, Herbert. Professional Communications. Spring 1999. 6 Nov. 2001 http://www1.esc.edu/personalfac/hshapiro/professional\_communications/default.htm>

1. **Book**

**An online book may be the electronic text of part or all of a printed book, or a book-length document available only on the Internet** (*e.g.*, a work of hyperfiction).

Bird, Isabella L. A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains. New York, 1881. Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. 27 May 1999. Indiana U. 4 Oct. 1999 <http://www.indiana.edu/letrs/vwwp/bird/rocky.html>.

Harnack, Andrew, and Eugene Kleppinger. Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Resources. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. 5 Jan. 2000 <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online>.

1. **Article in an Electronic Journal (ejournal)**

Joyce, Michael. "On the Birthday of the Stranger (in memory of John Hawkes)." Evergreen Review 5 Mar 1999. 12 May 1999 <http://evergreenreview.com/evexcite/joyce/index\_ns.html>.

1. **Article in an Electronic Magazine (ezine)**

Adler, Jerry. "Ghost of Everest." Newsweek 17 May 1999. 19 May 1999. <http://newsweek.com/nwsrv/issue/20\_99a/printed/us/so/so0120\_1.htm>.

1. **Newspaper Article**

Wren, Christopher. "A Body on Mt. Everest, a Mystery Half-Solved." New York Times on the Web 5 May 1999. 13 May 1999 <http://search.nytimes.com/search/daily/bin/fastweb?getdoc+site+site 33726+0+wAAA+%22George%7Emallory%22>.

1. **Government Publication**

Bush, George. "Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees." Executive Order 12674 of April 12 1989 (as modified by E. O. 12731). Part 1. 26 Aug 1997. 18 May 1999 <http://www.usoge.gov/exorders/eo12674.html>.

1. **Scholarly Project or Information Database**

Center for Reformation and Renaissance Studies. Ed. Laura E. Hunt and William Barek. May 1998. University of Toronto. 11 May 1999 <http://CITD.SCAR.UTORONTO.CA/crrs/index.html>.

The Internet Movie Database. May 1999. Internet Movie Database Ltd. 11 May 1999 <http://us.imbd.com>.

1. **Professional Site**

Mortimer, Gail. The William Faulkner Society Home Page. 16 Sept. 1999. William Faulkner Soc. 1 Oct. 1999 <http://utep.edu/mortimer/faulkner/mainfaulkner.htm>.

NAIC Online. 29 Sept. 1999. National Association of Investors Corporation. 1 Oct. 1999. <http://www.betterinvesting.org>.

1. **E-Mail**
   * **Cite an E-Mail source as you would a memo or a personal letter.**

Hill, Sharon. "New Directions for Education." E-Mail to edu.users. 4 Sept. 1997.

* + **Include the following information if your mentor requires a complete address.**

Hill, Sharon. "New Directions for Education." E-Mail to edu.users. Internet. 4 Sept. 1997. Available <http://shill@sescva.nc.edu>.

**Website or Online Database: \*\*(Two examples are given for this category)**

Author (if available). “Title of Article.” *Title of the overall website.* Publisher or sponsor of the website (if not available, use N.p.), Date of publication of the website (if not available use n.d.). Medium of publication. Date of access. <URL>.

"Graphic Designers."  *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009 ed.*  Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor,18 Dec. 2007. Web. 22 Sep. 2009. < http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos090.htm>.

“Oprah Winfrey Biography.” *Biography*. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 30 Oct. 2009. <http://www.biography.com/articles/Oprah-Winfrey>.

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every Web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much of the following information as possible both for your citations and for your research notes:

* Author and/or editor names (if available)
* Article name in quotation marks.
* Title of the website, project, or book in italics.
* Any version numbers available, including editions (ed.), revisions, posting dates, volumes (vol.), or issue numbers (no.).
* Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.
* Take note of any page numbers (p. or pp.) or paragraph numbers (par. or pars.).
* Date you accessed the material (Date Accessed).
* URL (without the https://)  DOI or permalink.
* Remember to cite containers after your regular citation. Examples of containers are collections of short stories or poems, a television series, or even a website. A container is anything that is a part of a larger body of works.

Use the following format:

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). 2nd container’s title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

**Citing an Entire Web Site**

It is a good idea to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available later. When using the URL, be sure to include the complete address for the site except for the https://.

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), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).

*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003, www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2006.

**Course or Department Websites**

Give the instructor name. Then list the title of the course (or the school catalog designation for the course) in italics. Give appropriate department and school names as well, following the course title.

Felluga, Dino. *Survey of the Literature of England*. Purdue U, Aug. 2006, web.ics.purdue.edu/~felluga/241/241/Home.html. Accessed 31 May 2007.

*English Department*. Purdue U, 20 Apr. 2009, www.cla.purdue.edu/english/.

**A Page on a Web Site**

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, www.ehow.com/how\_10727\_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.

**An Image (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)**

Provide the artist's name, the work of art italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, and the date of access.

Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid. *Museo Nacional del Prado*, www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74. Accessed 22 May 2006.

Klee, Paul. *Twittering Machine*. 1922. Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Artchive*, www.artchive.com/artchive/K/klee/twittering\_machine.jpg.html. Accessed May 2006.

If the work is cited on the web only, then provide the name of the artist, the title of the work, and then follow the citation format for a website. If the work is posted via a username, use that username for the author.

Adams, Clifton R. “People relax beside a swimming pool at a country estate near Phoenix, Arizona, 1928.” *Found,* National Geographic Creative, 2 June 2016, natgeofound.tumblr.com/.

**An Article in a Web Magazine**

Provide the author name, article name in quotation marks, title of the web magazine in italics, publisher name, publication date, URL, and the date of access.

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*, 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2009.

**An Article in an Online Scholarly Journal**

For all online scholarly journals, provide the author(s) name(s), the name of the article in quotation marks, the title of the publication in italics, all volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication. Include a URL, DOI, or permalink to help readers locate the source.

**Article in an Online-only Scholarly Journal**

MLA requires a page range for articles that appear in Scholarly Journals. If the journal you are citing appears exclusively in an online format (i.e. there is no corresponding print publication) that does not make use of page numbers, indicate the URL or other location information.

Dolby, Nadine. “Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions.” *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal,* vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

**Article in an Online Scholarly Journal That Also Appears in Print**

Cite articles in online scholarly journals that also appear in print as you would a scholarly journal in print, including the page range of the article. Provide the URL and the date of access.

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2000, pp. 595-600, wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00-0607\_article. Accessed 8 Feb. 2009.

**An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)**

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services as containers. Thus, provide the title of the database italicized before the DOI or URL. If a DOI is not provided, use the URL instead. Provide the date of access if you wish.

Alonso, Alvaro, and Julio A. Camargo. "Toxicity of Nitrite to Three Species of Freshwater Invertebrates." *Environmental Toxicology,* vol. 21, no. 1, 3 Feb. 2006, pp. 90-94. *Wiley Online Library*, doi: 10.1002/tox.20155.

Langhamer, Claire. “Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England.” *Historical Journal,* vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 27 May 2009.

**E-mail (including E-mail Interviews)**

Give the author of the message, followed by the subject line in quotation marks. State to whom to message was sent with the phrase, “Received by” and the recipient’s name. Include the date the message was sent. Use standard capitalization.

Kunka, Andrew. "Re: Modernist Literature." Received by John Watts, 15 Nov. 2000.

Neyhart, David. "Re: Online Tutoring." Received by Joe Barbato, 1 Dec. 2016.

**A Listserv, Discussion Group, or Blog Posting**

Cite web postings as you would a standard web entry. Provide the author of the work, the title of the posting in quotation marks, the web site name in italics, the publisher, and the posting date. Follow with the date of access. Include screen names as author names when author name is not known. If both names are known, place the author’s name in brackets.

Editor, screen name, author, or compiler name (if available). “Posting Title.” *Name of Site*, Version number (if available), Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), URL. Date of access.

Salmar1515 [Sal Hernandez]. “Re: Best Strategy: Fenced Pastures vs. Max Number of Rooms?” *BoardGameGeek*, 29 Sept. 2008, boardgamegeek.com/thread/343929/best-strategy-fenced-pastures-vs-max-number-rooms. Accessed 5 Apr. 2009.

**A Tweet**

Begin with the user's Twitter handle in place of the author’s name. Next, place the tweet in its entirety in quotations, inserting a period after the tweet within the quotations. Include the date and time of posting, using the reader's time zone; separate the date and time with a comma and end with a period. Include the date accessed if you deem necessary.

@tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." *Twitter,* 22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m., twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/160996868971704320.

@PurdueWLab. "Spring break is around the corner, and all our locations will be open next week." *Twitter*, 5 Mar. 2012, 12:58 p.m., twitter.com/PurdueWLab/status/176728308736737282.

**A *YouTube* Video**

Video and audio sources need to be documented using the same basic guidelines for citing print sources in MLA style. Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers understand the type and nature of the source you are citing. If the author’s name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploaded, cite the author’s name before the title.

 “8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test.” *YouTube,* uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.

McGonigal, Jane. “Gaming and Productivity.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

**A Comment on a Website or Article**

List the username as the author. Use the phrase, *Comment on,* before the title. Use quotation marks around the article title. Name the publisher, date, time (listed on near the comment), and the URL.

Not Omniscent Enough. Comment on "Flight Attendant Tells Passenger to ‘Shut Up’ After Argument After Pasta." ABC News, 9 Jun 2016, 4:00 p.m., abcnews.go.com/US/flight-attendant-tells-passenger-shut-argument-pasta/story?id=39704050.

**Citing non-print or sources from the Internet**

When creating in-text citations for electronic, film, or Internet sources, remember that your citation must reference the source in your Works Cited.

Sometimes writers are confused with how to craft parenthetical citations for electronic sources because of the absence of page numbers, but often, these sorts of entries do not require any sort of parenthetical citation at all. For electronic and Internet sources, follow the following guidelines:

* Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).
* You do not need to give paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser’s print preview function.
* Unless you must list the Web site name in the signal phrase in order to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com* as opposed to writing out http://www.cnn.com or http://www.forbes.com.

**Miscellaneous non-print sources**

Werner Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo* stars Herzog's long-time film partner, Klaus Kinski. During the shooting of *Fitzcarraldo*, Herzog and Kinski were often at odds, but their explosive relationship fostered a memorable and influential film.

During the presentation, Jane Yates stated that invention and pre-writing are areas of rhetoric that need more attention.

In the two examples above “Herzog” from the first entry and “Yates” from the second lead the reader to the first item each citation’s respective entry on the Works Cited page:

Herzog, Werner, dir. *Fitzcarraldo*. Perf. Klaus Kinski. Filmverlag der Autoren, 1982.

Yates, Jane. "Invention in Rhetoric and Composition." Gaps Addressed: Future Work in Rhetoric and Composition, CCCC, Palmer House Hilton, 2002.

**Electronic sources**

One online film critic stated that *Fitzcarraldo* "has become notorious for its near-failure and many obstacles" (Taylor, “Fitzcarraldo”).

The *Purdue OWL* is accessed by millions of users every year. Its "MLA Formatting and Style Guide" is one of the most popular resources (Russell et al.).

In the first example, the writer has chosen not to include the author name in-text; however, two entries from the same author appear in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes both the author’s last name and the article title in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader to the appropriate entry on the Works Cited page (see below). In the second example, “Russell et al.” in the parenthetical citation gives the reader an author name followed by the abbreviation “et al.,” meaning, “and others,” for the article “MLA Formatting and Style Guide.” Both corresponding Works Cited entries are as follows:

Taylor, Rumsey. "Fitzcarraldo." *Slant*, 13 Jun. 2003, www.slantmagazine.com/film/review/fitzcarraldo/.

Russell, Tony, et al. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*, 2 Aug. 2016, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

**Multiple citations**

To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

. . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).

**Time-based media sources**

When creating in-text citations for media that has a runtime, such as a movie or podcast, include the range of hours, minutes and seconds you plan to reference, like so (00:02:15-00:02:35).

#### Citing indirect sources

Sometimes you may have to use an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted. For example:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Note that, in most cases, a responsible researcher will attempt to find the original source, rather than citing an indirect source.

**When a citation is not needed**

Common sense and ethics should determine your need for documenting sources. You do not need to give sources for familiar proverbs, well-known quotations or common knowledge. Remember, this is a rhetorical choice, based on audience. If you're writing for an expert audience of a scholarly journal, for example, they'll have different expectations of what constitutes common knowledge.