MCC Library Quick Guide to APA & MLA Citation Styles

Why Cite?

Citation is how you give credit to the people whose words, ideas or images you have used in your work. By citing sources, you create a trail for others from your writing to your sources.

Whether you are quoting, paraphrasing or even summarizing information, you need to cite it.

How to Cite

The major styles of citation at MCC are APA (American Psychological Association) and MLA (Modern Language Association). In both styles, you cite your sources twice—once in the text of the paper (in-text citation) and again at the end (on the Works Cited or References pages).

The following pages contain examples of APA- and MLA-style citations for the most commonly cited resources: articles, books, webpages and interviews.

Resources

To see additional examples including in-text citations, image citations and sample papers, please refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), MCC Library’s online citation guide, the APA Publication Manual or the MLA Handbook (both available in MCC Library).

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
MCC Library online citation guide library.mccnh.edu/citing-sources

There’s Help!

Librarians and tutors in the MCC Learning Commons can help you with citations. See library.mccnh.edu/home or call 603-206-8150.

Online tutors can also help with writing and citation 24/7 via the Smarthinking link inside your Canvas courses.
Sample Citations (for References page)

- Online journal article from library database (two authors)


Note: The citation should include either a digital object identifier (doi) or a url.

- Print book


- Ebook from library database


- Web page with author


- Web page with no author


Notes: In APA citations, only the first word of an article or book title or subhead is capitalized. Names and proper nouns are always capitalized.

According to Purdue OWL, including a date of access is only necessary when a web page's content is likely to change. Ask your instructor what is required for the course.
MLA

Sample Citations (for Works Cited page)

▶ Online journal article from library database (two authors)


Note: The citation should include either a digital object identifier (doi) as seen above or a url.

▶ Print book


▶ Ebook from library database


▶ Web page - with author


▶ Web page - with no author


Note: Listing the date you accessed a website is optional. Check with instructor. Omit https://

▶ Interview

Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.
How to Format Citation Pages and Research Papers

Citation pages (APA and MLA)

- Separate page for citations
- Citations alphabetized by author’s last name
- Double-spaced 12 point Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins all around
- Works Cited (for MLA) or References (for APA) centered at page top
- Hanging indent - every line of citation except first one is indented by 0.5 inches

Research papers

There are APA and MLA guidelines for formatting research papers as well as citations. These guidelines specify font, margins, page headers and other formatting details. See the Purdue Online Writing Lab/OWL (owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) which even has sample papers or ask your instructor for research paper formatting requirements.