

Avoiding Plagiarism: Citing Sources

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Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism can be purposeful or accidental, but both will have serious academic consequences including:

- Receiving a failing grade for the assignment
- Receiving a failing grade for the class
- Suspension or expulsion from the college

Accidental plagiarism can occur when you fail to cite a source correctly, misquote a source, or use words too similar to a direct quote in your paraphrase. Learning how to cite your sources is the best way to avoid plagiarism. Beware of citation makers like **Citation Machine** and **EasyBib**; they won't always generate a citation fully or correctly.

Paraphrasing is using your own words to restate someone else's idea. Be mindful that using a thesaurus to change the main words of an author's statement is also considered plagiarism. An acceptable paraphrase is distinct from the original both in word choice and in sentence structure. You need to include an in-text citation for both direct quotes and paraphrases.

In-text Citations show that you have included a direct quote or paraphrase within your own sentence. You need to put direct quotes in quotation marks and cite the source at the end of the sentence before the period. The point of in-text citations is for the reader to be able to easily refer to the Works Cited page to find your source. Each format has different in-text citation methods. **MLA** is (author's last name, page number if available). **APA** is (author's last name, year of publication, page number if available).

End-text Citations include the full citation information for a source. They will appear on the Work(s) Cited page (MLA) or the Reference page (APA). The point of end-text citations is for the reader to be able to easily find your source either physically or online.

Authors in **MLA** are always written as last name, first name (ln, fn).

- For more than two authors: list the first author in ln, fn format, then list the second author normally (fn, ln) with "and" between them.
- For three or more authors: write the author's name that appears first, then "et al." to signify the other authors.

Authors in **APA** are always written as last name, first name initial, middle name initial (ln, fi, mi).

- For more than two authors in an **APA** citation, list the authors in ln, fi, mi format with a comma and ampersand (&) between them.
- For three to twenty authors, list authors in ln, fi, mi format with a comma between them until the last name, where you'll also include an ampersand.

MLA (Modern Language Association) Citations

These full citations will appear on the **Works Cited** page:

1. Article in an Online Magazine

Author's In, fn. "Article Title." *Magazine*, publication date, URL.

2. Article in Online Scholarly Journal

Author's In, fn. "Article Title." *Title of Publication*, vol. #, no.#, year of publication. DOI.

3. Article in a Digital Library Database

Author's In, fn. "Article Title." *Journal*, vol., no., publication date, p. page. *Database*, link.

4. Print Book

Author's In, fn. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

5. eBook

Author's In, fn. *Title*. E-book, Publisher, Publication Date.

6. A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Author's In, fn. "Title of Essay/Chapter/Section." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

7. A Page on a Website

Author's In, fn (if available). "Article Title." *Website Title*, website publisher, year, URL.

8. Online Video (Use poster for Author)

Username. "Title of Video." *Streaming Platform*, publication date, link.

9. Personal Interview

Respondent's In, fn. Personal interview. Day Month Year.

10. Survey

Author's In, fn. Survey Title. Day Month Year.

APA (American Psychology Association) Citations

These citations will be found on the **References** page:

1. Article in an Online Journal

Author's In, fi, mi. (date). Title of article. *Journal*, volume(issue), page range. DOI or URL

2. Article in Online Newspaper/Magazine

Author's In, fi, mi. (Year, Month Date). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper/Magazine*. URL

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3. Article in a Digital Library Database

Author's ln, fi, mi (date). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume number (issue number if available), page range. Retrieved from URL

4. Print or eBook

Author's or Editor's ln, fi, mi. (date). *Title*. Publisher. URL or DOI

5. A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Author's ln, fi, mi. (date). Chapter title. Editor, *Book title*. Publisher. URL or DOI

6. Webpage

Author's ln, fi, mi. (Year, Month, Date). *Title of page*. Website name. URL

7. Survey

Author's ln, fi (year). *Survey Title*.

Examples:

MLA Article in a Digital Library Database

Tarasuk, Valerie, et al. “The Relationship Between Food Banks and Food Insecurity: Insights from Canada.” *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary & Nonprofit Organizations*, vol. 31, no. 5, Oct. 2020, pp. 841–52. *EBSCOhost*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-019-00092-w>.

APA Article in a Digital Library Database

Tarasuk, V., Fafard St-Germain, A.-A., & Loopstra, R. (2020). The Relationship Between Food Banks and Food Insecurity: Insights from Canada. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary & Nonprofit Organizations*, 31(5), 841–852. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-019-00092-w>

MLA Article in an Online Magazine

Khazan, Olga. “‘Find Your Passion’ is Awful Advice.” *The Atlantic*, 12 July 2018.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/07/find-your-passion-is-terrible-advice/564932/>

APA Article in an Online Magazine

Khazan, O. (2018, July 12). “Find Your Passion” is Awful Advice. *The Atlantic*.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/07/find-your-passion-is-terrible-advice/564932/>