

Creating Citations

In-text citations are references to specific sources (such as books, articles, websites, etc.) that you include within the body of a written work, such as an essay, research paper, or academic article. They serve as a way to acknowledge the original authors or creators of the information you have used in your writing and to provide readers with the means to locate the sources for further reading or verification.

In-text citations typically include the author's name and the publication year of the source, and they are placed within the text at the appropriate point where the information from the source is used. The format of in-text citations can vary depending on the citation style being used (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).

Why Use Citations ?

- **Academic Integrity:** In-text citations are a fundamental aspect of academic honesty and integrity. By providing proper citations, you give credit to the original authors and avoid plagiarism, which is the act of using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism is a serious offense in academia and can lead to severe consequences.

- **Verification and Credibility:** Citations allow readers to verify the information you present in your work. By providing the source information, readers can access the original material and assess its credibility, supporting the claims you make in your writing.
- **Academic Standard:** Proper citation is an essential component of academic writing. It demonstrates that you have conducted thorough research and are building upon the existing body of knowledge in your field.
- **Acknowledging Previous Research:** In-text citations show that you have reviewed relevant literature and considered the ideas and findings of other scholars. This helps to place your work within the context of the broader academic conversation.
- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** Using someone else's work without proper attribution is considered plagiarism and can lead to serious consequences, including academic penalties and damage to your reputation.
- **Ethical Use of Information:** Citing sources also respects the intellectual property rights of others, acknowledging their contributions to the field and ensuring fair use of their work.
- **Supporting Your Arguments:** Citations provide evidence and support for the arguments you make in your writing. By referencing authoritative sources, you strengthen the validity and reliability of your claims.

Examples of Citations (Reference Page)

Creating a citation for a research project using MLA format involves following a specific structure and including the necessary information for each source you use.

MLA (Modern Language Association) is a widely used citation style, especially in the humanities. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to create MLA citations for various types of sources:

- **Book citation:**

Format: Author(s). Title of Book. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Example:

Smith, John. The Art of Fiction. Random House, 2005.

- **Journal article:**

Format: Author(s) of the article. "Title of Article." Title of Journal, vol. Volume number, no. Issue number, Year of Publication, Page range of the article.

Example:

Miller, Robert. "Climate Change and Its Effects on Biodiversity." Environmental Science Journal, vol. 25, no. 3, 2018, pp. 120-135.

- **Website or online source:**

Format: Author(s) or organization. "Title of Webpage or Article." Title of Website, Publisher (if different from the website title), Publication date (if available), URL.

Example:

National Institute of Health. "Understanding and Preventing Malaria." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 Sept. 2022, www.cdc.gov/malaria/prevent.html.

- **Newspaper article:**

Format: Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper, Date of Publication, Page number.

Example:

Brown, Sarah. "New Study Reveals Alarming Decline in Bee Population." The New York Times, 3 May 2023, p. A5.

- **Film or video:**

Format: Title of Film or Video. Directed by Director's Name, Performers' Names (if relevant), Production Company, Year of Release.

Example:

The Great Gatsby. Directed by Baz Luhrmann, performances by Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, Warner Bros. Pictures, 2013.

In-text citations:

In your research paper, you must include in-text citations whenever you quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from a source. In MLA format, you should include the author's last name and the page number in parentheses after the referenced material. For example: (Smith 25).

“Youth who are homeless find themselves disconnected from the necessary supports and systems. Many have been part of systems that perpetuate their trauma. The shelter system becomes a stop-gap for these young people.”

(Covenant House Toronto)

*According to **Covenant House Toronto**, “Youth who are homeless find themselves disconnected from the necessary supports and systems. Many have been part of systems that perpetuate their trauma. The shelter system becomes a stop-gap for these young people.”*

Remember to arrange the citations in alphabetical order if you have multiple sources and double-check the accuracy of the information, including spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Following these guidelines will help ensure that your research project adheres to MLA citation standards.