

## Avoiding Plagiarism: Citing Sources

The Writing Center

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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.

**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. 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).

**MLA (Modern Language Association) Citations** include an author's name, title of source, publication information, and dates. For more than three authors, write the author's name that appears first, then "et. al." to signify the other authors. For websites and articles online, you will need the date you accessed the material and DOI/URL. These full citations will appear on the **Works Cited** page:

### 1. Book (One or Two Authors)

Author(s). *Title of Work*. Publisher, Year.

### 2. A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

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

### 3. Website (Electronic Source)

Author. "Article Title." *Electronic Source*, website publisher, year, link.

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### 4. Article in a Web Magazine

Author. "Article Title." *Magazine*, publication date, URL.

### 5. Article in Online Scholarly Journal

Author. "Article Title." *Title of Publication*, vol. #, no.#, year of publication. DOI.

### 6. Database (Digital Libraries and Databases)

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

### 7. Online Video (Use poster for Author)

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

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**APA (American Psychology Association) Citations** include an author's name, title of source, publication information, and dates. For websites, use the date the website was last updated (usually found on the bottom of the web page). If the source has no identifiable date, use n.d. There are several types of authors depending on the media you are citing (see *figure 1*). These citations will be found on the **References** page:

#### 1. Book

Author or Editor. (date). *Title*. Publisher. URL or DOI

#### 2. A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Author. (date). Chapter title. Editor, *Book title*. Publisher. URL or DOI

#### 3. Journal article

Author. (date). Title of work. *Journal*, volume(issue), page range. DOI or URL

#### 4. Newspaper Article from a Website

Author's Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial if Given. Date of Publication. Title of article:  
Subtitle if any. *Name of Newspaper*. URL

#### 5. Magazine Article from a Website

Author's Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial if Given. (Year of Publication). Title of article:  
Subtitle if any. *Name of Magazine*, *Volume Number* (Issue Number if given), URL

#### 6. Online Encyclopedia or Dictionary – Known Author

Author's Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial if Given. (Year of Publication). Title of entry. In  
Editor's First Initial. Second Initial if given. Last Name (Ed.), *Name of encyclopedia or dictionary*  
(edition if given and is not first edition). Retrieved date from URL

#### 7. Basic Website

Author. (date). *Title of work*. Website/Webpage name. URL

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### 8. Website Group

Name of Organization. (date). *Title of work*. URL

*Figure 1*

Media Type	Author Type
Film	Director
TV Series	Executive Producer(s)
TV Series Episode	Writer and Director of Episode
Podcast	Host or Executive Producer(s)
Podcast Episode	Host of Episode
Webinar	Instructor
Classical Music Album or Song	Composer
Modern Music Album or Song	Recording Artist
Artwork	Artist
Online Streaming Video (YouTube)	Person or Group who uploaded the Video
Photograph	Photographer