

# Citing sources in MLA format



How to find a source,  
determine its  
credibility, and cite it  
in MLA format



01

# FINDING A SOURCE



# Different Kinds of Sources

**Credible**

## Primary Sources

Songs,  
Movies,  
Shows, etc.

## Secondary Sources

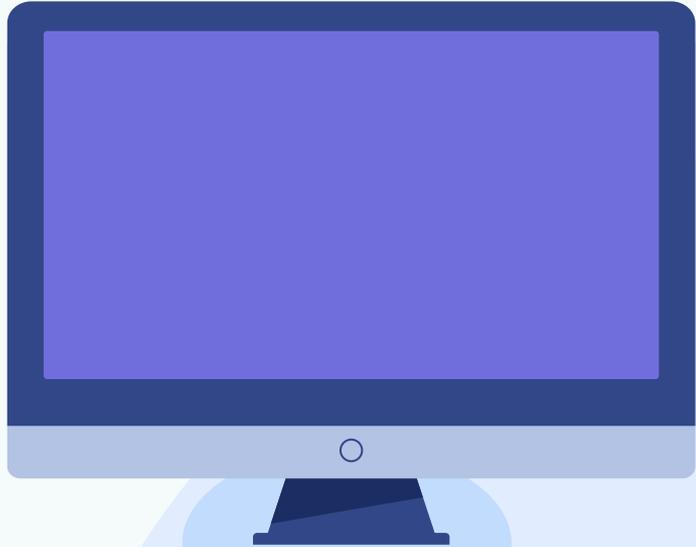
Books,  
Articles, etc.

**Not  
credible**

Wikipedia



# Wikipedia: How do we use it? Is it reliable?



Wikipedia is not reliable because it can be edited by anyone and because it has no author. Encyclopedias are a collection of sources, but they should not be used as sources themselves.

However, it is a great place to start researching something and it does offer lots of sources at the end of the page that you can use. If you find a wikipedia page about your topic, go to the end titled "Resources" and click on the sources you might be interested in.

# How to use Wikipedia's References

## References

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1. <sup>^</sup> British Board of Film Classification Editors (August 9, 2017). "It" <sup>🔗</sup>. *British Board of Film Classification*. Retrieved August 11, 2017.
2. <sup>^</sup> Faughnder, Ryan (September 5, 2017). "With new adaptation of 'It,' New Line Cinema hopes to continue horror winning streak" <sup>🔗</sup>. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved September 5, 2017.
3. <sup>^</sup> Katz, Brandon (August 9, 2017). "Will 'Annabelle: Creation' Make 'The Conjuring' Money?" <sup>🔗</sup>. *The Observer*. Retrieved August 11, 2017.
4. <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "It (2017)" <sup>🔗</sup>. *Box Office Mojo*. Retrieved October 6, 2017.
5. <sup>^</sup> Geier, Thom (April 22, 2016). "Stephen King's 'It' Release Date Set by Warner Bros" <sup>🔗</sup>. *TheWrap*. Archived <sup>🔗</sup> from the original on October 24, 2016. Retrieved October 16, 2016.
6. <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Kit, Borys (May 21, 2014). "Stephen King's 'It' Moves From Warner Bros. to New Line (Exclusive)" <sup>🔗</sup>. *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived <sup>🔗</sup> from the original on July 30, 2016. Retrieved June 27, 2016.
7. <sup>^</sup> Galluzzo, Rob (March 28, 2017). "First Poster For Stephen King's IT Arrives; Along With Quickie Tease Of The Trailer!" <sup>🔗</sup>. *Blumhouse Productions*. Archived from the original <sup>🔗</sup> on April 1, 2017. Retrieved March 31, 2017.
8. <sup>^</sup> McLaughlin, Sean (March 29, 2017). "New Poster Released for Stephen King's IT" <sup>🔗</sup>. *Horror News Network*. Archived <sup>🔗</sup> from the original on April 1, 2017. Retrieved March 31, 2017.
9. <sup>^</sup> Romano, Aja (March 30, 2017). "Stephen King's It is horror at its most unconventional. The new film's trailer is the exact opposite" <sup>🔗</sup>. *Vox*. Archived <sup>🔗</sup> from the original on March 30, 2017. Retrieved March 31, 2017.

At the bottom of every wikipedia page is a section titled references. This is where wikipedia lists hyperlinks to the sources they used to make the encyclopedia entry.

When you find a wikipedia page that interests you, take a look at the titles of some of these sources in the reference section and click on any you find interesting. These articles may become sources you use in your research project!

# The Library Database: How do we use it?

## Step 1

Go to the Nyack Library homepage  
<https://www.nyack.edu/site/library/>  
Use the search box on the home page or use the Resources tab and dropdown to the Databases tab.

## Step 2

Remember the library databases have a lot of information but they aren't as smart as google. Make sure to spell the search terms correctly and to alter your search terms if you're having trouble finding a source that you like.

## Step 3

Search the library database the same way that you would shop online.  
Use the filters! On the left, you'll see a column of boxes you can use to filter your search for year, type of source, and lots of other cool things!

# Once you find a source that you might like, you need to decide if you want to use it.

## Step 1:

Don't read the entire article!  
Not kidding. Research is exhausting! What if you read the whole thing and decide it isn't helpful? Don't waste your time reading entire articles that might not relate to your project.

## Step 2:

Read only the title and the abstract (sometimes called a description or summary.)

If you still like it, then save it for later and keep searching!

## Step 3:

Go back and look at all the sources you found and begin reading the articles to search for quotes you might want to use. .

# DETERMINING CREDIBILITY

02



# What to look for:

01

Currency:  
When was the source  
written?

02

Relevance:  
Is it directly related to  
your project?

03

Accuracy:  
Is the information  
correct?

04

Authority:  
Is the author in a position  
to write about the subject?

05

Purpose:  
Why was the source  
written?

# C.R.A.A.P.

Is the silly, yet useful, acronym  
you should remember while  
looking for online sources.



# Currency

- ❖ When was the source published?
- ❖ Has it been updated since it was published?
- ❖ Has new, conflicting information been released since the publishing date?
- ❖ Does the site look old and out-of-date?

# Relevance

- ❖ Does the information relate directly to your topic?
- ❖ Is the information too difficult, too elementary, or at just the right level?
- ❖ Have you looked at several sources before choosing this one?

# Accuracy

- ❖ Is the source reliable, truthful, and correct?
- ❖ Is the information backed up by evidence?
- ❖ Is the information verifiable by other sources?
- ❖ Are there spelling or grammar errors?
- ❖ Has the information been reviewed by experts?

# Authority

- ❖ Who is the author?
- ❖ What are the author's qualifications?
- ❖ Is the author affiliated with an organization or company?
- ❖ Is the website a trusted authority on the subject?
- ❖ (Just because something is a .org, .edu, or .gov does not mean it is automatically considered a credible, reliable source!)

# Purpose

- ❖ What is the purpose of the source? Is it to sell something? To persuade readers of a specific viewpoint? To entertain readers?
- ❖ Are the intentions and purposes of the source clearly defined?
- ❖ Is the article biased in any way? Politically, religiously, or culturally?

The C.R.A.P.P. acronym was created by Sarah Ryglicki and given to me by Professor Julianna Ryan

Before you use a source, use the C.R.A.A.P. test to  
make sure it is

**CREDIBLE**



# WRITING CITATIONS

03

# Elements of an End Citation

An end citation is the list of sources at the end of your paper. In MLA we call this a “Works Cited” page.

A Works Cited page helps your reader know where you’ve retrieved your information so they can access the source.

To make this process easier for researchers and readers, end citations have two important qualities.

1. They are in alphabetical order
2. The first word on the end citation will **ALWAYS** match your in-text citations.



# Citations are made up of 4 main parts:



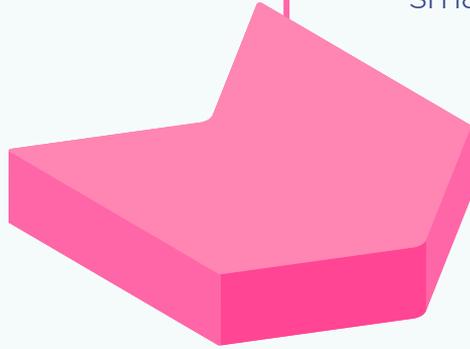
Use a period after Who, What, and When.  
Use a comma after Where.

## Citation generators

These sources will put all your information in the format you need. But remember, robots aren't that smart. Always check the information before copying it.

<http://www.citationmachine.net/>

<http://www.easybib.com/>

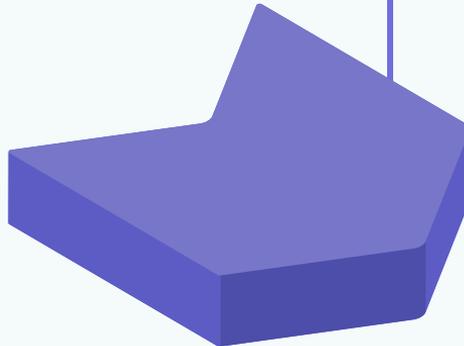


The next few slides on types of sources are for reference. You can return to these to check how citations look for each type of source you find. There is no need to read them all carefully.

## Purdue Owl

This website has all the MLA guidelines. All the following examples are from this website.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html)



# Citing Primary Sources: Books

## Basic Book Format

The author's name or a book with a single author's name appears in last name, first name format. The basic form for a book citation is:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

\*Note: the City of Publication should only be used if the book was published before 1900, if the publisher has offices in more than one country, or if the publisher is unknown in North America.

## Book with One Author

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

## Book with More Than One Author

When a book has two authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book. Start by listing the first name that appears on the book in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear in normal order (first name last name format).

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

# Movies

## Films or Movies

List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

*Speed Racer*. Directed by Lana Wachowski and Lilly Wachowski, performances by Emile Hirsch, Nicholas Elia, Susan Sarandon, Ariel Winter, and John Goodman, Warner Brothers, 2008.

# Television

## **Recorded Television Episodes**

Cite recorded television episodes like films (see above). Begin with the episode name in quotation marks. Follow with the series name in italics. When the title of the collection of recordings is different than the original series (e.g., the show *Friends* is in DVD release under the title *Friends: The Complete Sixth Season*), list the title that would help researchers to locate the recording. Give the distributor name followed by the date of distribution.

"The One Where Chandler Can't Cry." *Friends: The Complete Sixth Season*, written by Andrew Reich and Ted Cohen, directed by Kevin Bright, Warner Brothers, 2004.

## **Netflix, Hulu, Google Play**

Generally, when citing a specific episode, follow the format below.

"94 Meetings." *Parks and Recreation*, season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010. *Netflix*, [www.netflix.com/watch/70152031](http://www.netflix.com/watch/70152031).

## **An Entire TV Series**

When citing the entire series of a TV show, use the following format.

Daniels, Greg and Michael Schur, creators. *Parks and Recreation*. Deedle-Dee Productions and Universal Media Studios, 2015.

# Music

## A Song or Album

Music can be cited multiple ways. Mainly, this depends on the container that you accessed the music from. Generally, citations begin with the artist name. They might also be listed by composers or performers. Otherwise, list composer and performer information after the album title. Put individual song titles in quotation marks. Album names are italicized. Provide the name of the recording manufacturer followed by the publication date.

If information such as record label or name of album is unavailable from your source, do not list that information.

## Spotify

Rae Morris. "Skin." *Cold*, Atlantic Records, 2014. *Spotify*,  
[open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi](https://open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi).

## Online Album

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016,  
[www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/](http://www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/).

# Citing Secondary Sources

## **Personal Interviews**

Personal interviews refer to those interviews that you conduct yourself. List the interview by the name of the interviewee. Include the descriptor Personal interview and the date of the interview.

Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

## **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 uploader, cite the author's name before the title.

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E).

"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs).

### **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.

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](http://boardgamegeek.com/thread/343929/best-strategy-fenced-pastures-vs-max-number-rooms). Accessed 5 Apr. 2009.

### **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 Omniscient Enough. Comment on "Flight Attendant Tells Passenger to 'Shut Up' After Argument Over Pasta." ABC News, 9 Jun 2016, 4:00 p.m., [abcnews.go.com/US/flight-attendant-tells-passenger-shut-argument-pasta/story?id=39704050](http://abcnews.go.com/US/flight-attendant-tells-passenger-shut-argument-pasta/story?id=39704050).

## A Page on a Web Site

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by an indication of the specific page or article being referenced. Usually, the title of the page or article appears in a header at the top of the page. Follow this with the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*,  
[www.ehow.com/how\\_10727\\_make-vegetarian-chili.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html). Accessed 6 July 2015.  
"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014,  
[www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview](http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview).

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THANKS  
For Viewing

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