To maintain academic integrity and avoid plagiarism, you must cite sources in the text of your work and list them at the end in a Works Cited page. Citation is necessary in order to give credit to the sources you have used in your research. The Modern Language Association created this format to ensure uniform organization and to make it easier for others to refer to your sources.

To Format a Works Cited Page:

1. List sources alphabetically by author’s last name. If no author is given, put your sources in alphabetical order by the first piece of information you list.
2. If an entry is longer than one line, indent subsequent lines by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent. (You will use the first words of your Works Cited entry for the corresponding in-text citation.)
3. Double space all entries. Do not add an extra line between entries.
4. URLs are now required for sources found online. http:// is not needed.

Works Cited


To Format an In-Text Citation:

Include the author’s last name and page number(s) in parentheses at the end of the sentence that contains his words or ideas. Alternatively, cite the author by naming him in the lead-in to the source and put the page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence that contains the borrowed words or ideas.

Examples of in-text citation from the same source:

Economist Grant Houston lays the blame on bad government policy: “subsidies to corn growers keep the price of corn artificially low” (122).

or

Recent studies show that “tariffs on imported sugar unfairly subsidize US sugar growers” (Houston 248).

Further resources:

- Ask a librarian, or visit the Academic Resource Center (ARC).
- Purdue Online Writing Lab owl.english.purdue.edu

Revised September 2016
Examples of Full Citations

Basic book format with one author:
Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Publisher, Year of publication.

Book format with an author and an editor:
Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Edited by Firstname Lastname, Publisher, Year of publication.

Work in an anthology:
Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Work.” Title of Anthology, edited by Firstname Lastname, Edition number, Publisher, Year of publication, Page number range.

Individual page of a website:
Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Page or Article.” Title of Overall Website, Publisher of website, Date created, URL.

Film or movie:
Title. Directed by Firstname Lastname, Distributor or Film Studio, Year.

E-book accessed through web or library resource:
Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Publisher, Year. Name of website or database, URL.

Journal accessed through a library database:
Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Article.” Journal Title, Volume number, Issue number, Year, Page number range.