

MLA Citation within the Essay

1. Author not named in your text:

One researcher concludes that "women impose a distinctive construction on moral problems, seeing moral dilemmas in terms of conflicting responsibilities" (Gilligan 105).

Fairy tales reflect the emotions and fears of children (Bettelheim 23).

Internet Citation

(for more info on Internet citation, visit the MLA website at www.mla.org)

A work with numbered paragraphs or screens instead of pages (i.e. many of your web sources):

Since electronic sources such as websites and e-books don't have pages for you to cite, you'll often cite the paragraph number, distinguished from page numbers by the abbreviation "par."

Twins reared apart report similar feelings (Palfrey, pars. 6-7).

If you have no paragraphs or page numbers in the website, you can cite the work in your analysis, rather than in a parenthetical reference. By consulting the Works Cited list, the reader will be able to determine that the source is electronic and may therefore not have page numbers.

In her article "Limited Horizons," Lynne Cheney claims that schools do best when students read literature not for practical information but for its insights into the human condition.

A work without a listed author:

Anonymous works are alphabetized by title in the list of works cited. In the text, they are referred to by full or shortened title. The next citation refers to an unsigned article titled "The Right to Die." (A page number is omitted because the article is only one page.)

One article notes that a death-row inmate may demand his own execution to achieve a fleeting notoriety ("Right").

In spite of political unrest, Soviet television remained fairly conservative, ignoring all challenges to the system ("Soviet" 3).

Warning: In this case, the source is an anonymous source, writing in a one-page article. How reliable do you think the reader will consider this information?

HINT: Cite an electronic source as you would any other source: usually by author's name or, if there is no author, by title.

Business forecasts for the fourth quarter tend to be optimistic (White 4).

MLA Citation for the Works Cited Page

Like citations of print sources, citations of electronic sources require available information such as author, title, and date of publication. Online sources (such as Web Sites) require even more additional information, as shown in the sample below.

Sagoff, Mark. "Do We Consume Too Much?" Olsson Center for Applied Ethics. 18 Feb. 2004. U of Virginia. 4 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.ocae.virginia.edu/ruffin2/sagoff.html>>.

When there is no author named for the material:

Philadelphia Writer's Project. Ed. Miriam Kotzen Green. May 1998. Drexel U. 12 June 2005 <<http://www.Drexel.edu/letrs/wwp>>.

A document within a Web Site:

"D Day: June 7, 1944." The History Channel Online. 1999. History Channel. 7 May 2004 <<http://historychannel.com/thisday/today/997690.html>>.

A government publication

Cite an online government publication the same way you would a print version; end with the information required for an electronic source.

United States. Dept. of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Violence against Women: Estimates from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey. Jan. 1995. 10 July 2003 <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/020131.pdf>.

If you're citing a company Web Site, you'll cite it the way you would if it were in print, then add the appropriate web information.

Print version:

American Automobile Association. Western Canada and Alaska. Heathrow, FL: AAA Publishing, 1999.

Online version:

American Automobile Association. Western Canada and Alaska. June 1999. AAA Publishing. 4 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.aaa.com/canadastats.pdf>>.