Integrating and Citing Sources

Why do we need to cite?

There are two major reasons: to respect the intellectual property of others, and to help readers investigate where you found your information and to read your sources themselves. Properly citing your sources signals respect for your readers, your sources, and the field as a whole.

Avoiding accidental plagiarism

Few people intentionally plagiarize. More often, people accidentally plagiarize because they don’t know when they need to cite or don’t know how to properly cite a source. Don’t let this happen to you! Here are several guides that show you when and how to cite:

- North Carolina State University Libraries: Citation—A (Very) Brief Introduction
  http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/citation/

- University of Michigan Libraries: How Do I Effectively Integrate Textual Evidence?
  https://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduates/writing-guides/how-do-i-effectively-integrate-textual-evidence-.html

- Purdue Online Writing Lab MLA Style Citation Guide
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/

MLA Style: The Basics

MLA Style has guidelines for in-text citations (references in the body of your writing) and for a works cited or reference list (references at the end of your paper). Below are some basic examples:

**Journal Article**

*Works Cited:*

*In-text:*
(Bialystok 64).

**Citing Indirect Sources**

*Works Cited:*

*In-text:*
(qtd. in McAllum 25)

*For research help contact Teaching and Learning Services at libues@umd.edu*
Citation Practice

Spot the Difference

Looking at the two sample citations below, spot the errors and explain how they could be fixed.


*How could this be fixed?*


*How could this be fixed?*

Citation Chasing

Using the citations above or a citation in one of your books/articles for this class, see if you can find that source in WorldCat (the library catalog) using the information provided in the citation.

Create Your Own Citations

Using the scholarly sources that you’ve found, create citations for those sources for both a works cited entry and an in-text citation. Once you’ve completed the citations, swap papers with a neighbor and check each other’s work.

For research help contact Teaching and Learning Services at libues@umd.edu