

New 3rd Edition!



Cite It Right

The SourceAid Guide to Citation,
Research, and Avoiding Plagiarism



Covers:

Modern Language Association

American Psychological Association

Chicago Manual of Style

Council of Science Editors

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The SourceAid Guide to Citation,
Research, and Avoiding Plagiarism

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Table of Contents

Preface	iii
General Advice Before You Get Started	iv
1 Writing Ethics	1
Plagiarism Defined.....	1
Citing Sources.....	2
When to Cite Sources	4
2 Research	9
Choosing Your Topic	9
Developing a Working Thesis Statement.....	10
Gathering Sources: Using the Library.....	12
Internet Research	14
Evaluating Sources	16
3 Writing	23
Paper Introductions.....	23
Body of the Paper	24
Tables and Figures	33
Paper Conclusions.....	34
Making Revisions.....	35
4 Modern Language Association	39
About MLA	39
Composition Layout	40
Works Cited	45
Parenthetical Citations.....	49
Notes.....	55
Understanding MLA Terminology	61

Citation Formats.....	65
5 American Psychological Association	107
About APA	107
Composition Layout	107
Reference List.....	113
Parenthetical Citations	117
Understanding APA Terminology.....	120
Citation Formats.....	122
6 Chicago Manual of Style.....	139
About CMS.....	139
Composition Layout	140
Bibliography	147
Text Citations	151
Notes.....	154
Understanding CMS Terminology.....	160
Citation Formats.....	163
7 Council of Science Editors	195
About CSE	195
Composition Layout	197
Reference List.....	198
In-Text Citations.....	202
Understanding CSE Terminology	206
Citation Formats.....	209
Index	221

1 Writing Ethics

This chapter explores the ethical dimensions of writing and researching. It focuses on source citation fundamentals and reiterates the negative consequences of plagiarism with examples of plagiarizers in the news.

Plagiarism Defined

A writer plagiarizes when he or she presents another writer's unique work as a product of his or her own knowledge or imagination.

Plagiarism occurs when an author fails to do any of the following tasks:

- Include required in-text citations or notes
- Provide a complete reference list
- Cite accurately

Plagiarism: A Contemporary Issue

Plagiarism is on the rise, and its consequences are becoming more drastic. In today's Web Era, plagiarism is common because it is easy for a writer to copy and paste others' ideas from the Internet, and difficult to properly document sources. Because plagiarism poses such an obvious threat to genuine learning, educators do not take plagiarism offenses lightly. It is increasingly common for colleges to rescind acceptance letters or deny graduation rights if they discover students plagiarized in the past or violated their academic integrity policies. Despite these disciplinary measures, some students in today's high-pressure culture will do anything to secure a diploma from a reputable institution and the well-paying job it ensures, even at the cost of their own academic integrity.

Expanding your Topic

If you initially are interested in writing about the psycho-social development of twelve-year-old boys, you might have to broaden your focus to the psycho-social development of all adolescent boys in order to gather enough information.

Narrowing your Topic

In another paper, you might initially choose to research the Stone Age. As you learn more about the Stone Age you can narrow your topic to cover a particular subject or idea, such as the study of stone tools. You can narrow your focus even further to stone tools in the Paleolithic Era and, if needed, you can further narrow your discussion to tools used during the upper, middle, or lower Paleolithic periods.

Think of your working thesis statement as a hypothesis that you will attempt to test through your research.

Keep in mind that you can use your paper to present your claim as being partially valid, if that is what you discover during research. Be honest about what your research reveals.

To learn how to write a thesis statement, see *Thesis Statements* on page 23.

Gathering Sources: Using the Library

You should go into the library with a relatively concrete idea of what you would like to write about (a working thesis statement) so that you can start your research immediately.

Finding Your Sources

By using the library's alphabetized card catalogue, you can look up sources by subject, author, or book title. With the advances in computer technology, card catalogues are becoming increasingly obsolete and consequently replaced by library databases. These computer catalogues facilitate the same searches with greater ease and efficiency. After entering the requested data into a library database, the computer will direct

Ordering citations

Arrange citations in alphabetical order. If a citation begins with an article (*The*, *A*, or *An*), then use the next word in the citation to place it alphabetically in the works-cited list. See *Ordering Citations: Special Circumstances* for more details.

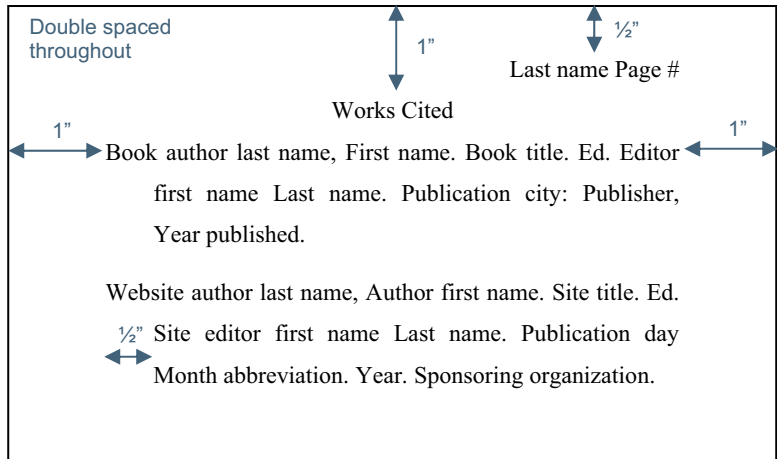


Fig. 4.5. The beginning of a works-cited list.

Choosing the Right Kind of MLA Source List

If a traditional Works Cited page does not satisfy your research purposes adequately, then you might want to consider using another type of MLA source list. You may choose to include explanations, descriptions, or insight with your citations in an Annotated List of Works Cited, or you might opt to include information about sources that you did not cite in your paper in a List of Works Consulted.

6. Court Case

Works Cited Entry

Case name. No. Case number. Deciding court name.
Decision date day Month abbreviation Year.

Example

Brown v. Board of Education. No. 347 U.S. 483.
Supreme Ct. of the US. 17 May 1954.

Note

Note# Case name, no. Case number, Deciding court name,
Decision date day Month abbreviation Year.

Example

⁶ Brown v. Board of Education, no. 347 U.S.
483, Supreme Ct. of the US, 17 May 1954.

7. Dictionary

Works Cited Entry

“Defined word.” Def. Definition number. Dictionary title. Ed. Editor first name Middle initial. Last name.
Edition number (2nd, 3rd, 15th, etc) ed. Publication city:
Publisher, Year published.

Example

“Irony.” Def. 1. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. Ed. Frederick C. Mish. 10th ed.
Springfield: Merriam-Webster, 2000.

Note

Note# “Defined word,” Dictionary title, Edition date Year
ed.

Example

⁷ “Irony,” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 2000 ed.