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## How to Cite Specific Resources for Argumentative/Social Issue Papers: MLA Style (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)

(Sometimes the “cart” goes before the “horse”: An approach to citing resources)

**Explanation:** Choose sources based on the need for supporting your topic, whatever the topic may be.

(Note: 12 point type required. For space considerations, we use 11 point in examples below).

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Instructions for citing:

1. Begin by creating the **Works Cited** list. This list consists of all sources **paraphrased** and **quoted** in a speech. The list should be arranged in alphabetical order.
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### Sample Works Cited

Ashworth, William, and Charles E. Little. "Alternative Energy Sources." *Encyclopedia of Environmental Studies*. New ed. New York: Facts On File, 2001. N. pag. *Science Online*. Web. 13 Feb. 2009.

Cooper, Mary H. "Exporting Jobs." *CQ Researcher* 20 February 2004: 149-72. *CQ Researcher Online*. Web. 12 Feb. 2009.

"Government Bailouts." *Issues & Controversies On File* 30 Mar. 2009: n. pag. *Issues & Controversies*. Web. 6 August 2009.

"Delta Stops Sending Customer Service Calls To India." *The New York Times*. 18 April 2009: B2(L). *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 6 August 2009.

Kane, Tim, Brett D. Schaefer, and Alison Acosta Fraser. "Outsourcing Does Not Harm America." *At Issue: Does Outsourcing Harm America?* Ed. Katherine Read Dunbar. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2006. N. pag. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 6 August 2009.

"Issue Guide: Economy." *Public Agenda for Citizens*. Public Agenda, 29 July 2009. Web. 29 July 2009.

Lee-St. John, Jeninne. "The 10 Best Chores to Outsource." *Time*. 24 Dec 2007: 83. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 6 August 2009.

Piatak, Tom. "Outsourcing Threatens American Workers." *Opposing Viewpoints: Globalization*. Ed. Louise I. Gerdes. San Diego: Greenhaven, 2006. N. pag. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 12 February 2009.

Free  
website



Notes about databases in **Sample Works Cited** list on opposite page.  
All databases provide a variety of types of sources. Focus of several listed here:

*CQ Researcher*, objectively-written articles.  
*Issues & Controversies*, objectively-written articles.  
*Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*, viewpoint essays.  
*Science Online*, reference sources.

Other: *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, reference sources.

2. Next, cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within your paper according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list.

The examples provided below are tied to the **Sample Works Cited** list on the opposite page.

### Paraphrase

Oil taken from the ground cannot be replaced. William Ashworth and Charles E. Little define alternative energy sources as those from plant, sun, wind, and other sources that are renewable. . . .

### Quotation

Tom Piatak expresses his disdain for sending jobs overseas. He says, “the antidote to outsourcing is a return to economic patriotism by businessmen, consumers, and government. Despite what free-trade ideologues maintain, this is not synonymous with big government.” . . .

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3. For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other speech outlining requirements, visit the **SLC Writing Lab**.
  4. Finally, consider several guidelines from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (2009):
    - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9)
    - When to include URL
      - if, without it, reader could face difficulty finding source
      - if **your instructor requires it**
    - **Flexibility of MLA style:** “improvise” when unanticipated features encountered
    - **“Be consistent...”** with styles when writing all citations
    - **Verification of websites:** chance of “disappearing sites, . . . download, . . . print, [or email]...” retrieved references and save for later – just in case (5.6.1, pp. 182-3)