

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

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

**Explanation:** Resources for speeches are similar to those used in research papers. Consider using different types of resources for **informative** and **persuasive speeches**. **Viewpoint essays** and **editorials** may be more useful for **persuasive speeches**. **Reference** sources (encyclopedias, etc.) may be more useful for **informative speeches**. Ultimately, choose sources based on the need for supporting your topic, whatever it may be.

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

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.

### Sample Works Cited

Ashworth, William, and Charles E. Little. "Alternative Energy Sources." *Encyclopedia of Environmental Studies*. New ed. New York: Facts On File, 2001. *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.

"Geothermal Energy." *World of Earth Science*. Ed. K. Lee Lerner and Brenda Wilmoth Lerner. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2003. 252. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 16 Feb. 2009.

Free  
websites

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

"Lake Worth, Florida." *Google Maps*. Google. 28 July 2009. Web. 28 July 2009.

Meyer, Ronald C. and James M. Roberts. *Life After Oil: The New Energy Alternatives*. Prod. Centre Comm. Narr. Erick Avari. Ambrose Video, 2008. *PBCC Media Collection*. Web. 4 August 2009.

Obama, Barack. "Energy." *Vital Speeches of the Day* Aug. 2009: 338-39. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 21 August 2009.

Putnam City North High School. "Basic User's Guide to NoodleTools." *NoodleTools Part 1*. N.p., 24 February 2008. *YouTube*. Web. 4 August 2009.

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

Notes about databases in **Sample Works Cited** list on opposite side of page

All databases provide a variety of types of sources. Focus of several listed here:

*Science Online*, reference sources.

*CQ Researcher*, objectively-written articles.

*Gale Virtual Reference Library*, reference sources.

*Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*, viewpoint essays.

Other: *Issues & Controversies*, objectively-written articles.

2. Next, cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within your speech according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list. **Signal phrases** with action verbs are used to introduce cited sources to public speaking audiences. A website providing examples of action verbs:
  - Texas A&M International University Writing Center  
[http://www.tamui.edu/adminis/pase/writingcenter/documents/MLAsigphrases\\_ACR.doc](http://www.tamui.edu/adminis/pase/writingcenter/documents/MLAsigphrases_ACR.doc)  
 “Using Signal Phrases in MLA Papers”
  - A librarian at PBCC/Lake Worth has also put together a list of “action verbs.”

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 derived from plant, sun, wind, and other sources that are renewable. . .

## Quotation

Tom Piatak expresses his disdain for moving jobs overseas and states: “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.”

- 
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)