
How to Cite Free Web Sources in MLA (7th ed.)

PBCC Libraries

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

Explanation: Websites should be cited in entirety. A **web page** which is only a portion of a **website** should be cited with credit to the “short” page with the title in double quotes (“ ”) and the overall website, with the title in italics. Instructions for citing:

1. Begin by creating the “Works Cited” page. This list consists of all sources **paraphrased** and **quoted** in a research paper. The list should be arranged in alphabetical order.

TIP! If it is difficult to identify author(s) of a web page or website, consider if: (1) the site is written by a **corporate author** or (2) no single author is identifiable.

2. Decision to include URL (or web address) in citation:
 - If, without URL, reader could face difficulty finding source
 - **if your instructor requires it**

Source: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (2009).

Sample Works Cited

Chameides, Bill. “China’s New Car: Plug In, Turn On, Drive Out.” *The Green Grok*. Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, 17 December 2008. Web. 27 July 2009.

Design Decisions Laboratory. “Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle.” *Design Decisions Wiki*. Carnegie Mellon U., 15 April 2008. Web. 27 July 2009.

Gilman, Edward F. and Dennis G. Watson. “*Jatropha Integerrima Peregrina*.” *EDIS Publication #ENH478*. Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Inst. of Food & Agricultural Services, U. of Florida, 2009. Web. 27 July 2009.

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

National Biodiesel Board. “Biodiesel Myths Busted.” NBD, n.d. Web. 27 July 2009.

Tierney, John. “The Immoral Majority.” Op-ed. *The New York Times*. New York Times, 31 October 2006. Web. 22 July 2009.

3. Next, cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within your paper according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list. Paraphrased sources are cited using a (1) **signal phrase** or (2) **parenthetical citation**.

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

Signal phrase

According to Chameides, the new hybrid plug-in car from China can travel 60 miles on one charge of the batteries and runs at a “top speed” of 100 miles per hour. . . .

Parenthetical Citation for Paraphrasing

. . . The jatropha, a native shrub of Cuba and the Caribbean, is an attractive plant used as a border on patios (Gilman and Watson).

Parenthetical Citation for Quotation

. . . A consideration for the new electric cars involves the fuel. “The cost for electricity to power plug-in hybrids for all-electric operation in California has been estimated at less than one quarter of the cost of gasoline” (“Plug-in”).

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4. For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other writing questions, visit the [SLC Writing Lab](#).
 5. See also [The Bedford Handbook](#).
 6. Finally, consider several guidelines from the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. \(2009\)](#):
 - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9)
 - **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)