

[LumenLearning MLA In-text citation](#)

OWL Purdue:

CITING NON-PRINT OR SOURCES FROM THE INTERNET

With more and more scholarly work published on the Internet and virtual learning, you will have to cite sources you found in digital environments. When creating in-text citations for electronic, film, or Internet sources, remember that your citation must reference the source on your Works Cited page.

Sometimes writers are confused with how to create parenthetical citations for electronic sources because of the **absence of page numbers**. However, these sorts of entries often do not require a page number in the parenthetical citation.

For electronic and Internet sources, follow the following guidelines:

- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).
- Do not provide paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser's print preview function.
- Unless you must list the Web site name in the **signal phrase** in order to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com*, as opposed to writing out <http://www.cnn.com> or <http://www.forbes.com>.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES: Include enough information to lead your reader to the appropriate Works Cited entry.

Electronic sources may include web pages and online news or magazine articles:

One online film critic stated that *Fitzcarraldo* "has become notorious for its near-failure and many obstacles" (Taylor, "Fitzcarraldo").

The *Purdue OWL* is accessed by millions of users every year. Its "MLA Formatting and Style Guide" is one of the most popular resources.

In the first example (an online magazine article), the writer has chosen not to include the author name in-text; however, two entries from the same author appear in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes both the author's last name and the article title in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader to the appropriate entry on the Works Cited page (see below).

In the second example (a web page), a parenthetical citation is not necessary because the page does not list an author, and the title of the article, "MLA Formatting and Style Guide," is used as a signal phrase within the sentence. If the title of the article was not named in the sentence, an abbreviated version would appear in a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence. Both corresponding Works Cited entries are as follows:

Taylor, Rumsey. "Fitzcarraldo." *Slant*, 13 Jun. 2003,
www.slantmagazine.com/film/review/fitzcarraldo/. Accessed 29 Sep. 2009.

"MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*, 2 Aug. 2016,
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. Accessed 2 April 2018.

What to do when there's no author?

Use a shortened title of the resource in the parenthetical citation. Ideally your information should have an author but some websites do not. Choose your references carefully.

WHEN A CITATION IS NOT NEEDED

IF I "JUST KNOW" A FACT OR IDEA (SOMETHING I LEARNED IN HIGH SCHOOL, FOR EXAMPLE), DO I HAVE TO CITE MY HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OR TEXTBOOK?

This question falls under the issue of common knowledge. Common knowledge generally includes biographical information, dates of historical events, and other undisputed, widely available information. If you think that your average, reasonable reader already accepts this information as fact, it is not necessary to document it.