

MLA CITATION AND YOU

Referencing
sources in the
Arts &
Humanities



Why do we need to cite anyway?

Any time that you are using information from your research in a paper, it is very important to give credit to the source.

We call this **citing one's work**, or in general terms, **CITATION**.

For the assignments you work on, teachers often include a portion of your grade for citation. Also, many teachers might not accept your assignment if citations are not included.

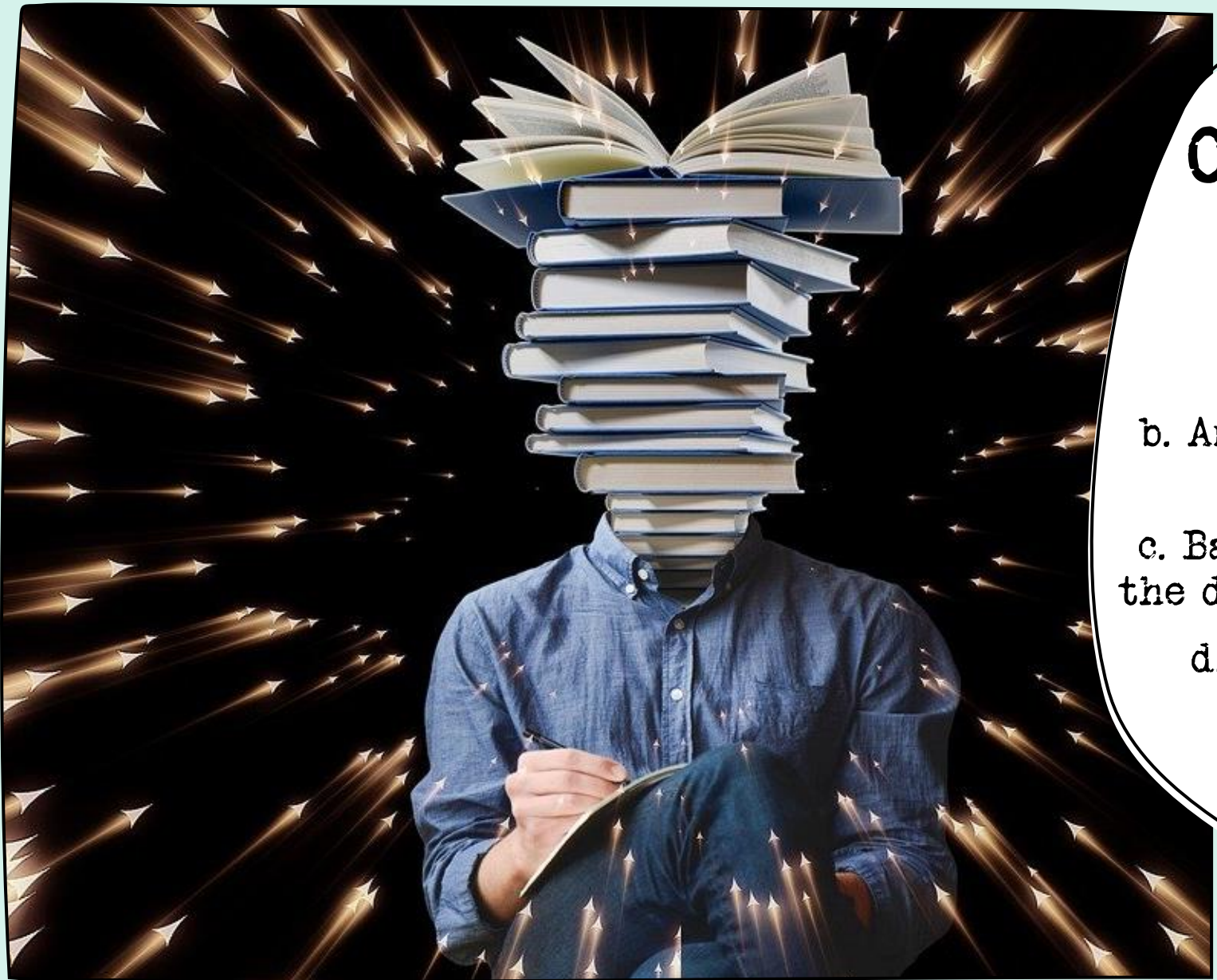


What do we need to cite?

Your paper or presentation should not have dozens of citations on every page.

For example, saying Margaret Atwood wrote *The Handmaid's Tale* does not require a citation. This is because that is considered **Common Knowledge**.

Can you think of any other examples of information that are considered common knowledge and wouldn't require a citation?



Common Knowledge or not?

- a. Hamburgers are an example of Fast Food.
- b. Americans consume an average of 2.4 hamburgers every day.
- c. Baseball is the only sport where the defensive side controls the ball.
- d. In 2019, 1,986,000 Canadians curled at least once.

Evidence Needing Citation

- Statistics
- Quotations
- Facts or details
- Graphics or images
- An idea or theory (Paraphrasing doesn't exempt this)
- Basically if you had to look it up, cite it!


The MLA School of Citation

The Modern Language Association's form of Citation (MLA) is widely used in the Arts and Humanities.

It is a very straight-forward system that uses **parenthetical (in-text) citations** and compiles a **Works Cited list** to go at the end of the piece of writing.

In-Text Citations

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF
A CITATION WITHOUT AN
AUTHOR!



“Relevant source information can be found in parentheses after a quotation or paraphrase” (MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics).

These citations correspond with the entries in the **Works Cited** list, which include more information, allowing the reader a full picture of the reference material used by the student.

Think of it as a roadmap for your teacher to see where the information comes from.

In-Text Citations

When citing any work within your paper, an **in-text citation** is placed for any **research done**, **quotation** referenced or **idea** paraphrased.

Simply place the name of the author and page number if appropriate after your included information (Author Name 141).

If there is no author listed, use the name of the article/source or a short form of the title. Then place punctuation after the citation is complete (Name of Article).



IN THIS CASE, PAGE 141. NO COMMAS

Citations in Action...

It is with this intent that Dickens continues to shine a light on the social inequities in London. His understanding of the plight of the poor and commitment to social reform is seen within many of his works (Diniejko). By looking at Pip's journey in *Great Expectations*, the best anyone could really ask for in the era was "to work pretty hard for a sufficient living and therefore ... do well" (Dickens 553).

This quotation comes from Dickens' *Great Expectations*

Paraphrased idea from an essay written by [Andrzezej Diniejko](#), which would require a corresponding entry in the [Works Cited](#).

The use of three periods ([ellipses](#)) means I removed words in the original quote without changing meaning for the sake of brevity.

The Works Cited List

After you've finished writing your paper or presentation, you need to provide a full accounting of every source that you used from your research.

This is called a **Works Cited** list and it follows a very specific formula to complete.

Format Concerns and the Works Cited List

The Works Cited page has the title Works Cited, centered at the top of the page in regular font.

Entries are sorted in **Alphabetical order from A-Z** and use a hanging indent (all lines after the first indented) for each entry.

Every source listed on your Works Cited should also be seen in a parenthetical citation within the submitted work.

Entries should be double spaced but don't put an extra line between each entry.

MLA's Bins

The MLA uses **nine bins** to determine order and format for a citation.

These bins are found below, and each would be followed by the punctuation as follows;

Name of the Author(s). Title of Source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.



MLA's Bins

If you cannot find one of the details to fill a Bin, leave it blank and move to the next one.

For example, if there is no Version for a source, leave it blank and move to next bin.

The same would be true if there is no author or publication date.

For alphabetical order, the 1st letter of citation counts, even if you had to use a blank.

~~Name of the Author(s). Title of Source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.~~



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Title of Source. Title of container, Other contributors, Publisher, Location.



Works Cited

Title is in standard font, nothing fancy

"All the Reason in the World." *Cancon News*, March 15 2021,
www.cancon.ca/local/allthereason.html.

Dumont, Dawn, "Reading has made me 'a complete romantic
and prone to making horrible decisions like
following my dreams'." *School Libraries in Canada*,
Winter 2012, Volume 30, Issue 1, pp. 10-14.

Johnson, Skip. *The Collected Works of Poetry from Port Perry*.
Edited by Roman Nagy, Omni Publishers Ltd., 2015.

Each entry is doublespaced, but
no extra line between each entry.

Sample Works Cited

Making sure your Works Cited is
organized in alphabetical
order is key! If you have to
recite them out loud; go right
ahead! A, B, C, D, E...