

What is Citing Resources All About?

When using any type of information source (books, magazine articles, information from the Internet) in an essay or paper, it is very important to give credit to the source. We call this "citing" an information source. Many teachers will ask you to include a **bibliography** or **list of references cited** with your paper. A bibliography, or list of references cited, is a list that tells your reader where you found the information you included in your paper.

Why Do We Cite Resources?

- The people who read your essay or research paper will want to know where you found your information. They may want to read one of the articles or books that you used for your research. You need to give them enough information so that they can find the book, magazine, article or Web site you used.
- We cite our information source to prevent plagiarism. Plagiarism is copying someone else's work and making it look like it is your own. Plagiarism can be either copying exact sentences or paragraphs or using someone else's ideas without giving them credit.

How Does It Work?

The most important thing to remember is to give enough information so that someone reading your paper can find the resources you used while researching it. These typically include:

- Author
- Title of the book, magazine article or Web site
- When the item was published; for books what year, for articles and Web sites, what year, month and day
- The place of publication or the Web site address

There are several standards used when citing information. One well-know standard is [MLA Style](#) taken from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Following are some examples of how to cite different materials. Check with the reference librarian if you have questions or want to see other examples.

Book: Author's name(last name first). Title of the book. Place of publication: Publisher, copyright year.
Silverstein, Shel. *A Light In the Attic*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

Magazine Article: Author's name (last name first). "Title of the Article." Magazine Title date: pages.
Leo, J. "One laugh = 3 tbsp. oatbran." *US News & World Report* 23 Jan. 1989: 55.

Web Site: Author. "Article Title." Title of Publication or Web Site. Date on page. Name of Sponsoring Organization. Date you visited the site <Web site address>.

"World's Best Ice Cream Cookie Crunch Roll." Ben & Jerry's. 7 Dec. 1998. 10 Dec. 1998
<<http://www.benjerry.com/wbvrecipes/crunch.html>>.

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