



Guide to Works Cited and Plagiarism

Brief Guide to Works Cited

Basically, use the MLA format for Works Cited. List every source from which you took information, or which contributed to your understanding of your project. You need at least four, but it would not be uncommon to have eight to ten sources. In the past, most of these sources would have been books or magazines, but now many reports are written without citing a single printed source. In your report, at least one non-website source is required. Find one book, magazine, encyclopedia, or even dictionary that has information about your topic, use it in your paper, and properly cite it as a source. The sources are listed in alphabetical order by the first word in the citation (often the author's last name).

Brief Guide to Citing Websites in your Works Cited

Websites are to be listed in the following manner in your Works Cited:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Name of organization, date page was published or last updated, Web. Date you visited the site.

For example, the source of the information above was a wonderful website published by the OWL English Department at Purdue University. The page from which this information was taken would be properly cited as follows:

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2011. Web. 13 Jul 2011.

In the above example, notice that there was no editor, author or compiler, because none was listed on the webpage. Also, notice that the word "Web" denotes the fact that this is a webpage. Technically "Web" is the "Medium of Publication". Also, notice that the URL, "<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>" is no longer necessary in your works cited.

So, basically, for websites, you need five pieces of information:

- The name of the person who is the editor or author
- The name of the website
- The date the page was published or last updated
- The "Medium of Publication", which is always "Web"
- The date you last visited the site



Guide to Works Cited and Plagiarism

Brief Guide to Citing Wikipedia in your Works Cited

Wikipedia is a special case. On Wikipedia's own "Citing Wikipedia" page,

As with any source, especially one of unknown authorship, you should be wary and independently verify the accuracy of Wikipedia information if possible. For many purposes, but particularly in academia, Wikipedia may not be an acceptable source; [1] indeed, some professors and teachers may reject Wikipedia-sourced material completely. This is especially true when it is used without corroboration. However, much of the content on Wikipedia is itself referenced, so an alternative is to cite the reliable source rather than the article itself.

We advise special caution when using Wikipedia as a source for research projects. Normal academic usage of Wikipedia and other encyclopedias is for getting the general facts of a problem and to gather keywords, references and bibliographical pointers, but not as a source in itself. Remember that Wikipedia is a wiki, which means that anyone in the world can edit an article, deleting accurate information or adding false information, which the reader may not recognize. However, we are also confident that Wikipedia provides good overviews of most topics that it covers.

"Citing Wikipedia." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 4 July 2011. Web. 13 July 2011.

You are allowed to use Wikipedia as a source of information for your report, but it should make up no more than 1/4 of your research works. The citation method for Wikipedia is as follows:

"Page Title." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. Date page was last updated (which is always listed at the bottom of the page). Web. Date you last visited page.



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Brief Index of Citing Method for Four Common Print Sources

Books

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name Middle Name. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher's Name, Year of Publication.

Example:

Ride, Sally. Exploring Our Solar System. New York: Crown, 2003.

Magazines

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name Middle Name. "Title of Article." Name of Magazine Day Month. Year of Publication: Page Numbers of Article.

Example:

Cowen, Ron. "Sky Lights." Science News 18 Sept. 2004: 179-180.

Encyclopedias

Format:

Author of article's Last Name, First & Middle. "Article Title." Title of Encyclopedia. Year of Publication.

Example:

Brecher, Kenneth. "Universe." World Book Encyclopedia. 2003.

Dictionaries

Format:

"Defined Word". Title of Dictionary. Year of Publication.

Example:

"Aberration." Firefly Astronomy Dictionary. 2003.

By the way, the source for the above information is a **Document from an Internet Site**, the citation of which follows the following format:

Author's Last Name, First Name Middle Name. "Article or Specific Page Title." Title of Entire Web Site. Day Abbreviated Month. Year Web Page Was Last Revised. Sponsoring Organization. Day Abbreviated Month. Year You Read It <URL>.

Which is, in this case the following:

Bellevue School District, "MLA High School.doc." Bellevue School District. 2011. July 13, 2011. <[http://schools.bsd405.org/nhs/homepage/library/MLA High School.doc](http://schools.bsd405.org/nhs/homepage/library/MLA_High_School.doc)>.

You can find out how to cite anything else at Purdue University's OWL—Online Writing Lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>, or by using any source that gives the MLA method for citations.



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Brief Guide to Citations in the Body of your Report

You are required to include two citations in the body of your report. Each citation may be either a direct quote using quotation marks, or an acknowledgement of your source for a particular piece of information. Your citations will probably belong in your "Research and Conclusions" section, or possibly in your "Problem" or "Procedure" section, depending on their nature.

Immediately following your direct quote or acknowledgement, you'll then name the source and page of your source within a set of parentheses. The parentheses will refer the reader to your works cited page. Then, your reader can check your source by finding the whole citation from your works cited.

For example, you might put this quote in the body of your report:

"The origin of the marshmallow is an interesting subject. The marshmallow came from the root of the marshmallow plant, called *althaea officinalis*". (Britannica 104).

Or this acknowledgement:

The marshmallow consists of sweet white corn syrup with flavor added (Wikipedia Marshmallows).

Then, make sure that in your Works Cited, you have the full citation for the Encyclopedia Britannica, or the Wikipedia page about Marshmallows.

Brief Summary of the Nature of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas and presenting them as your own. The use of plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of your Science Fair Project. Basically, you're not allowed to copy and paste anything from any source. You're not allowed to use any language from any source without crediting the source. You're not allowed to use the same order, sentence structure, or format as any source (for example, using "copy and paste" and then just changing all the key words). You're also not allowed to misquote or mischaracterize a source.

That seems pretty restrictive! How can you write your report? See the next section.



Guide to Works Cited and Plagiarism

Brief Summary of How Not to Plagiarize

1. Read lots of information from lots of different sources, and then close the sources. Think about all of the information, and then write it out in a new, original way. (You still must cite those sources). This is the model for a well-researched and properly cited report.
2. Do research, by checking many different sources--relying on one source is an easy way to plagiarize.
3. Cite sources by telling exactly who or what the sources are.
4. Do not copy any phrase of five words or more and/or a complete sentence from any unless you put them in quotation marks, and cite the source specifically. The "five word rule" is a way to force you to think about the information from the source instead of copying it.
5. If you're not sure how to write a sentence without plagiarizing, it's okay to just quote the source and properly cite it. Don't do this in every sentence, but it acceptable to use lots of citations.
6. It's better to be safe than sorry--cite any source you use.
7. Use your original ideas. Your report is an opportunity to express yourself. If you think you know what why you're results turned out the way they did, write it down. You should try to find research to back up your ideas, but it's okay to come up with your own thoughts.

By the way, the citation for the above quote is:

"What is Plagiarism?" Plagiarism.org. July 5, 2009. Web. July 13, 2011.

Here's an example. If your source says,

"One commonly proposed theory about the origin of marshmallow holds that the traditional recipe used an extract from the mucilaginous root of the marshmallow plant, a shrubby herb (*Althaea officinalis*)."

You CAN'T use, "One commonly proposed theory..." or "The origin of marshmallow holds" or "an extract from the mucilaginous root" unless you cite the source.

You CAN say, "According to Wikipedia, the marshmallow came from the root of the marshmallow plant, called *althaea officinalis*." (Wikipedia Marshmallow).

By the way, the citation for the above quote is:

"Marshmallows." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 9 November 2010. Web. 9 November 2010.