MLA Workshop

Learn & practice:
When to cite
How to cite
MLA Handbook 8th edition

Roberts Library
PN
203
.G53
2016
Other resources?

• Purdue OWL MLA
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01

• MLA Style
  style.mla.org
Citations are based on this formula:
When to cite

- Cite all mentions of another author’s original ideas, statistics, studies, borrowed concepts & phrases, images, quoted material, and tables.

- You do not need to cite facts which are commonly known by your audience and easily verified in reference sources, like a well-known person’s birth date.

- When in doubt, cite your source.
Methods of in-text citation

- “Quotation” (Author page).
- Paraphrase (Author page).
- Author’s name in the paraphrase (page).
Readers meet Hagrid. "A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost hidden by a long, shaggy mane of hair and a wild tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes, glinting like black beetles under all that hair" (Rowling 46).

Works Cited

Paraphrasing

- Introduce and restate another person’s original ideas in your own words.

- Do not follow the author’s sentence structure or sequence of ideas.

- Cite with parentheses.
Paraphrase with parenthetical citation:

- Readers meet Hagrid, a giant of a man, with hair and beard so massive that the gleam of his eyes could barely be seen (Rowling 46).

**Quote:** Readers meet Hagrid. "A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost hidden by a long, shaggy mane of hair and a wild tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes, glinting like black beetles under all that hair" (Rowling 46).
Rowling introduces Hagrid, a big man, with hair and beard so massive that the gleam of his eyes could barely be seen (46).

Readers meet Hagrid, a big man, with hair and beard so massive that the gleam of his eyes could barely be seen (Rowling 46).
Which would you need to cite?

A. The Cat in the Hat is a children's book written by American author, Theodore Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss.

B. In Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat, the Cat first threatens, then reaffirms order.
B: Correct!

“A” would not need to be cited – a fact that your audience has heard of, or could find in a reference work.

“B” would need to be cited; it is a claim made by a particular scholar and your reader may want to learn more about it by reading the original source of the idea.
How would you cite it?

In-text:
In Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat* at first threatens, then reaffirms order (Wolosky 174).

Works Cited:

Try again: which would you need to cite?

A. *Where the Wild Things Are* was somewhat controversial upon publication because it showed "Max's psychological fantasy, a vent for his anger toward his mother."

B. The main character of *Where the Wild Things Are* is named Max.
A: Correct!

“A” would need to be cited – it is an exact quote. Even if it was rephrased without quotation marks, the claim made is specific, and should be attributed to its author.

“B” is a fact about the story.
How would you cite it?

**In-text:**
Where the Wild Things Are was somewhat controversial upon publication because it showed "Max's psychological fantasy, a vent for his anger toward his mother" (Tunnell & Jacobs 83).

**Works Cited:**

Citing at the end of your paper:

- All sources cited within the body of your paper should be cited in full at the end.

- Citing “in full” means that you should account for all major bibliographic elements, not just the author and date.
Works Cited page: MLA style citation

• Include a page called “Works Cited” listing all sources cited within the body of the paper.

• Double-space entire page.

• List citations in alphabetical order.

• Do not indent first line, but do indent the following line(s) in an entry. (Called a “hanging indent”)

Works Cited


P.S.
This is how you might use the formula to figure out a tricky citation like a chapter in a book.