

Citing Websites & Webpages

The following information is based on the style-writing guide for the Schenectady County Community College. In some respects, the Purdue University site provides a more comprehensive guide to in-text citations in MLA style; however, the Schenectady page is easier to navigate. You can access the full-text of the guide here (http://www.sunysccc.edu/library/researchhelp/MLA_InTextCitation.pdf).

In-text citations for websites looks a lot like ones created for print (or book) resources. For example, a book citation would look like what you see below:

Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Woodsworth 263).

The author is indicated in the first field (Woodsworth) and the page number is represented by the second field (263). The full bibliographical reference for the book—the publisher, place published, date published, etc.—is listed on the Works Cited page.

Websites, however, frequently do not indicate the name of an author. Therefore, there are several things students need to keep in mind when using online sources for in-text citations:

- **State the author’s last name or the corporate sponsor if known.**
- **If the author’s name is unavailable, and if there’s no corporate sponsor for the site, then place**
- **If you refer to the entire website, place the title of the site’s homepage in italics.**

Basically, use the author’s name if it is available in parentheses. For example:

Black holes come in and out of existence all of the time (Feynman).

In the example above, the website’s author (Richard Feynman) is indicated in citation.

If there is no author, then use the individual web page’s title in quotation marks. For example:

Black holes come in and out of existence all of the time (“Black Holes”).

And if there’s no webpage title then simply place the name of the entire website in italics. For example:

Black holes come in and out of existence all of the time (*Scientific American*).

You can avoid the need to use citations in this way at all if you just directly come out and tell the reader where you got your information from. For example:

The world-renowned physicist Richard Feynman in his 1996 *Scientific American* article explained that black holes come in and out of existence.

In all of the examples above, you would create an entry on the Works Cited page (even for the final one right above this sentence).

Works Cited Page Instructions

Remember you do not have to place the site's URL at the end of any of your paragraphs. Instead, you use the works cited page (a separate page at the end of your essay) to identify the URL, publisher, date you accessed the website, etc.

Please use the Citation Machine found at <http://www.citationmachine.net/> to create the entries for your works cited page. When using MLA style, organize your Works Cited by the last names of the authors, sponsors, or editors. If a site has no author, editor, etc. then alphabetize based on the first word of the title (ignoring any articles like *the, an, a*, etc.).