

Use this as a guide when referencing research and source materials in your essay. For more examples, please consult the Purdue Online Writing Lab Style Guides, accessible via QR code:



Paintings, Sculptures, and Photographs

There are different reference styles according to the medium by which you access the artwork, whether visiting artwork in a museum or viewing it on the museum's website.

MLA 9

If citing a work of art that you saw in a museum, include the museum name as the container. Only cite medium/materials if important to analysis.

King, William Dickey. *Father*. 1965, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk.

If citing a museum's website, include the URL after.

King, William Dickey. *Father*. 1965, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk,
<https://chrysler.emuseum.com/objects/3136/father?ctx=ed8120b3-88aa-4686-84f3-41b40cccb88b&idx=436>

APA 7

In APA, make sure to include the medium/materials in a bracket. When citing a work seen in a museum:

King, W. D. (1965). *Father*. [sculpture made of burlap, metal, and wood]. The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, United States.

If citing a website, include the URL:

King, W. D. (1965). *Father*. [sculpture made of burlap, metal, and wood]. The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, United States.
<https://chrysler.emuseum.com/objects/3136/father?ctx=ed8120b3-88aa-4686-84f3-41b40cccb88b&idx=436>

Personal Interview/Personal Communication

Personal interviews and personal communication both refer to personal conversations between you and another person. In APA, this includes emails, texts, and conversations. In MLA, this refers only to conversations.

MLA 9

If citing a personal interview, make sure to include a citation in your works cited.

Robbins, Ed. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

For the in-text citation, include only the last name of the person you interviewed. Ex: (Robbins)

APA 7

In APA, personal communication doesn't require a formal reference citation. However, an in-text citation is required. Make sure to include the date on which the communication took place.

(E. Robbins, personal communication, January 4, 2023).

Songs (on Spotify)

There are many ways to cite music, dependent on how you access a song. The most popular music streaming service is Spotify, but additional containers and styles can be found on the Purdue OWL.

MLA 9

In MLA, cite a song's container, such as Spotify or Apple Music. The open.spotify link can be acquired by "sharing" the song and then copying the URL/link. Do not include https://

Lamar, Kendrick. "HUMBLE." *DAMN.*, Top Dawg Entertainment, 2017. *Spotify*, open.spotify.com/track/7KXjTSCq5nL1LoYtL7XAwS?si=02qNd5dVTTOH8FtgrvaWGg.

APA 7

In APA, songs will share the same information regardless of the container. However, if accessing a song online, make sure you cite the source's URL. Mark as an Audio file. Also include https://

Lamar, K. (2017). HUMBLE. On DAMN.. [Audio file].https://open.spotify.com/track/7KXjTSCq5nL1LoYtL7XAwS?si=02qNd5dVTTOH8FtgrvaWGg

U.S. Bills and Laws

U.S. bills and laws, although similar, are distinct enough to require two separate reference styles. For laws or statutes, include the year of ratification. For unenacted bills or resolutions, include the year the bill was introduced and all years the bill was debated.

MLA 9 – Citing a Law

When citing a law, include all departments and agencies if known; otherwise, simply name the federal government. When cited, a referenced law should look like:

United States, Congress. Public Law 101-336, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. *Congress.gov*, 1990. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/933>

APA 7 – Citing a Law

When citing a law, you only need to specify the first subsection (§) from which you cited information. The general format is:

Title of law, ## U.S.C. § XXXXX et seq. (Year). URL

When cited, a referenced law should look like:

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. (1990). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/933>

MLA 9 – Citing a Bill

Use this template to cite an unenacted bill or resolution:

Government Entity. Name of the Bill. *Title of Container*, URL. Congressional session, Bill/Resolution number, last status.

Specify whether the bill is sponsored by the House or Senate after writing "Congress." When cited, a bill should look like:

United States, Congress, Senate. NOPAIN Act. *Congress.gov*, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/586>. 117th Congress, Senate Bill 586, Introduced 04 Mar. 2021.

APA 7 – Citing a Bill

Use this template to cite an unenacted bill, testimony, resolution, or deposition:

Title of bill/testimony, H.R. or S. ###, XXX Cong. (Year). (Testifier name(s), if applicable). URL

The letters before the bill indicate the Senate (S.) or House of Representatives (H.R.). When cited, a referenced bill should look like:

NOPAIN Act, S.586, 117th Cong. (2021-2022). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/586>

(Notes adapted from The Purdue OWL Formatting and Style Guides for MLA and APA)