

Citations

○ What are citations and why do we need them?

Think of a citation kind of like a web link. You add a citation to your paper to allow your professor or another reader, to find the source of your information like a web link takes you to another web page. Citations not only give credit to the author of the original information, but they also show your professor that you are using credible sources to shape your own ideas.

○ When do I cite information in my paper?

In general you cite information that you did not think of on your own. When you get information from a book, website, journal article, etc you should cite it. The main exception to this rule is common knowledge or undisputable information.

An example:

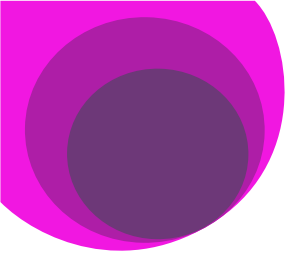
You would not have to cite that John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963. That is unchanging, undisputable information.

However, if you were reading a book that said it was likely that JFK was assassinated due to an elaborate government plot based on his foreign policy, you should cite the author of the book.

The difference here is that this is the author's own theory, there are hundreds of theories as to why JFK was assassinated, and since you read it in a book and did not think of it on your own, you must cite it.

○ Where do I cite sources in my paper?

There are many different citation styles that each have their own rules. At Edison you will probably be asked to use either the MLA style or the APA style of citations. Both MLA and APA require you to cite your information in the body of your paper, this type of citation is called in-text, and at the end of your paper in a list.



Citations

- How do I cite sources in my paper?

MLA and APA styles have different rules about how to cite different types of resources. The good news is that they publish manuals that tell you how to cite your sources using the citation style your professor has asked you to use. Here are two links to the citation guides Edison State College Libraries recommend for MLA and APA.

[-MLA Citation Guide](#)

[-APA Citation Guide](#)

- Where can I go to get help with my citations?

Any of the Edison State College librarians are more than happy to assist you with citing sources for your assignments. The staff at the Writing Centers on any Edison campus are also available to help you with your citations. The link below will show you the hours and locations of Edison's Writing Centers.

[Edison's Writing Centers](#)