



Young Reporters
for the environment

Citing Your Sources

Incorporating a bibliography with footnotes or citations in MLA format was introduced in the 2020-21 YRE International Competition criteria. The aim is to give students the writing and citations skills that will help them produce credible journalistic work and prevent plagiarism. We believe these are skills that are also valuable throughout a student's academic career, especially at the university level. The purpose of citing sources is not to make students' lives more difficult, but to encourage quality journalism and reduce the spread of misinformation.

We propose two ways for students to cite the sources they used in writing an article, a description or caption for a photograph or creating content for a video.

Option 1: Footnotes

In the article [Fuel Your Body, Not Pollution: The Rise And The Problems Of Online Food Delivery](#), the authors used in-text footnotes to cite their sources. All the sources are listed at the end of the article under '**References**'.

Concerned by the impact of other materials, Sten Gustaf Thulin invented the plastic bag in 1959. His idea was to create a bag that can be reused over and over again and use less resources. However, as of human nature, we took a short-cut, simply discarded them and made them an easy and cheap way to carry everything without realizing their harmful potential. Today, one trillion plastic bags are produced every single day. [3] But is there a better material than plastic?

An American pizza delivery company, Zume Inc., has made the switch to compostable packaging. Their solution was to use molded fiber made from sugarcane fiber, wheat, bamboo straw and other fibers. Not only are they compostable, but they are also made of agricultural waste that would be thrown away otherwise. The change in material didn't compromise quality either. Their packaging is classified as Type 4 Molded Fiber -the highest quality molded fiber. [4] It sounds great, however would it be suitable for Bahrain, is the question. Since Bahrain doesn't have big agricultural sites, the materials would have to be imported which skyrockets their carbon footprint. The second issue is the willingness of the companies.

REFERENCES

[1] <https://www.thisisplastics.com/environment/mean-environmentally-friendly/>

[2] <https://www.popsoci.com/best-reusable-bag/>

[3] https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_shopping_bag

[4] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lanabandoim/2019/06/19/ending-plastic-in-food-delivery-with-new-packaging/#6fdb2a005424>

[5] <https://www.eco-business.com/news/food-delivery-apps-skewered-for-creating-plastic-waste/>

Option 2: MLA Citation

MLA citation style requires an in-text citation with the **author's (or organization's) name and page number**. We proposed MLA style because it is often used for writing pieces in the liberal arts and humanities fields. *However*, if students are more familiar with other citation formats such as **Harvard** or **Chicago** style, this is also acceptable (and encouraged!). Students may also use in-text citations with the author's (organization's) name and the publishing date. Full citations of sources used should be included at the end of the article under 'References'.

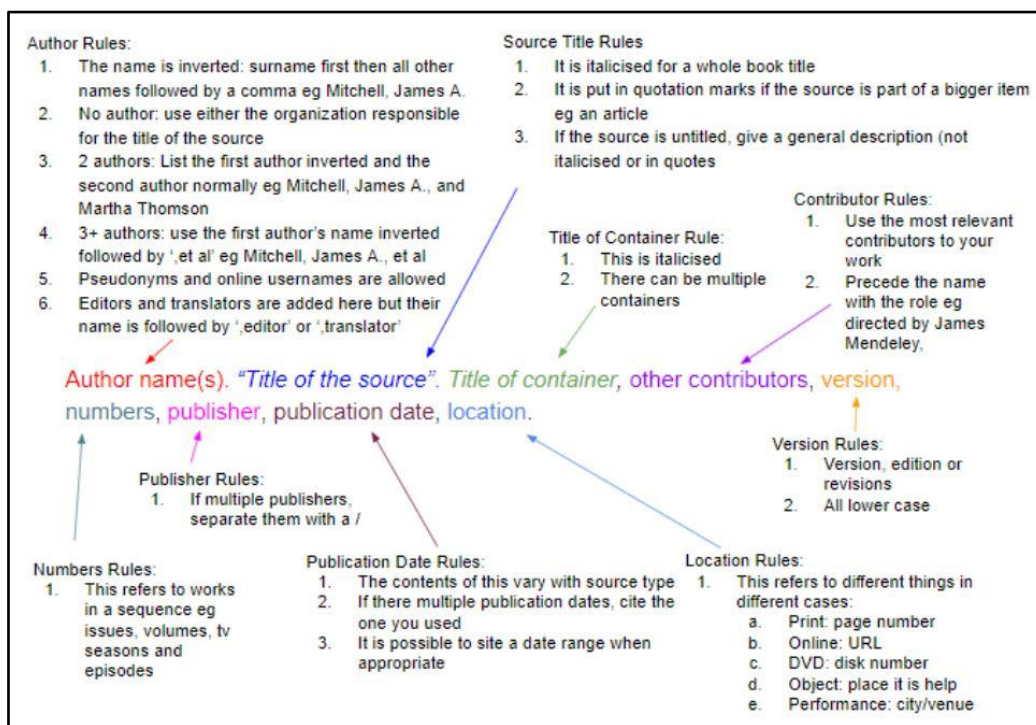
In the article, [Fireworks - Beautiful Environmental Villains](#), the author uses Chicago style to cite their sources. In-text citation includes the **author's (or organization's) name and publishing date** and all sources used are included under 'References' at the end.

In the article “Nyårsraketer bakom chockhög luftföroreningar i Tyskland” (“New Year fireworks cause sky-high air pollution in Germany”) by Mathias Gerdfeldter (SVT Nyheter, 4 January 2017), I read that in 2016, New Year fireworks in Germany had emissions equivalent to 15% of the country's annual particulate emissions from motor vehicles. This poses more than just a health hazard. Soot particles block sunlight and exacerbate the greenhouse effect, which has been reported in “Partiklarna som får isen att smälta” (“The particles that make the ice melt”) (Sveriges Radio, 12 January 2017). Fireworks also elevate concentrations of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which have several long-term effects on the environment.

References:	Title	Author	Publisher & Date
Burman, Lars (2000). <i>Förhöjda halter av metaller i luften (Elevated concentrations of metals in the air)</i> . Report from SLB-analys, Stockholm. Accessed on 2 December 2019. Available at: http://slb.nu/slb/rapporter/pdf8/slb2000_003.pdf			
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). <i>Globala målen (UN Global Goals)</i> . Accessed on 5 December 2019. Available at: https://www.globalamalen.se/			
Gerdfeldter, Mathias. Nyårsraketer bakom chockhög luftföroreningar i Tyskland (New Year fireworks cause sky-high air pollution in Germany). SVT Nyheter, 4 January 2017. Accessed on 25 November 2019. Available at: https://www.svt.se/nyheter/utrikes/nyarsraketer-bakom-chockhoga-luftfororeningar-i-tyskland			

A more detailed example of the format for MLA citations format can be found on the next page.

MLA Citation Guide



Source: <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/mla-citation-guide>

What about Photos and Videos?

Any time a piece of information like a fact, a percentage or direct quote are used, the source should be given.

For videos, all the sources used to create the content (including images, video footage and information) can simply be listed in a credit roll at the end. The credit roll can be in the form of a list of URLs or it can be formatted in MLA style (or another citation style) in a reference list, as mentioned above.

For photographs, if the author uses a quote or statistic, etc. in their photo description or caption, then that source should also be cited using footnotes or MLA style with a reference list at the bottom of the Exposure page.

For example, for submission titled "[Deadly Demand](#)" (see below), the author states that "Singapore is one of the world's largest markets for the horn and around 19% of Chinese Singaporeans actively use antelope horn products." Is this information coming from a real and credible source? If yes, the source should be cited and listed in a reference list at the end.

DEADLY DEMAND

Each of these horns belongs to a critically-endangered saiga antelope. Such large stockpiles are a common sight in Singapore's Chinatown area where they are sold for around 130SGD. Singapore is one of the world's largest markets for the horn and around 19% of Chinese Singaporeans actively use antelope horn products. Called 'lin yang', it is more often sold in the form of a cooling drink to cure fevers and sore throats. Funnily enough, the horns are made of keratin, the same material that make up your fingernails and have no medicinal properties. Awareness needs to be raised to promote available alternatives to this product and save the saiga antelope from extinction.



Adding a in-text citation and the source at the end in a reference list would greatly strengthen this submission.