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What is referencing?

When you are writing an essay or report, you will support your answer or back up your argument by discussing published work. These published works could be books, textbooks, articles, online sources, videos, newspaper articles, among others. Referencing is the system by which you keep track of and give credit to the sources you have mentioned in your essay. Referencing is a requirement in academic writing, and you will be asked to present a list of all the works and authors cited in your essay. You may have seen references in your textbooks, articles you have read or on your reading list.

This is an example of a reference:


When you are referencing in your essay, every reference has *two parts*. They are:

1. An in-text citation in the body of your essay
2. A reference in a list at the end of your essay
Why do I need to reference?

There are three main reasons to reference:

1. To avoid plagiarism; referencing correctly means you are acknowledging the source of your work and another author’s idea. We will discuss plagiarism in more depth a little later.

2. So your reader can consult the work you have referenced. If you are specific about which article you are referencing by a specific author, then whoever is reading your essay can go and check that article.

3. To show the scope of your research.

Plagiarism

In an academic context, it's important to learn how to analyse the sources of ideas and give due credit to original authors. If you use the words or ideas of someone else by quoting them directly or paraphrasing their work or important ideas, then you must acknowledge where material has been borrowed from and provide your audience with the information necessary to find the source.

It's important to note that plagiarism isn't always intentional, but you're still responsible for the work you produce. All the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else’s work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
● giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
● changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
● copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

There is more information about plagiarism on the Library Guide for APA 7 Referencing: https://mie-ie.libguides.com/apa

When to reference

You must include a reference / in-text citation whenever you quote from, paraphrase or use an idea from a published work.

Short quotes

For short quotes that are fewer than 40 words, you should include your in-text citation in the text and use double quotation marks. For example:

Moss and Brookhart (2019) describe formative assessment as “active and intentional learning process that partners the teacher and the students” (p.5).

Formative assessment has also been described as “active and intentional learning process that partners the teacher and the students” (Moss & Brookhart, 2019, p.5).
Long quotes

For longer quotes that are more than 40 words or for more than three lines of a poem, you should skip a line and present it as an indented block. For example:

The metaphor of a windmill has been utilised to describe the process of formative assessment:

    Just as a windmill intentionally harnesses the power of moving air to generate energy, the formative assessment process helps students intentionally harness the workings of their own minds to generate motivation to learn. Propelled by the formative assessment process, students understand and use learning targets, set their own learning goals, select effective learning strategies, and assess and regulate their own learning progress. (Moss & Brookhart, 2019, p.5).

Poetry

If you are quoting more than three lines of a poem, retain the original formatting. There is no need for quotation marks. For example:
Paraphrasing

If you are paraphrasing an idea from a published work in your essay, you must still include a reference. Paraphrasing is when you are describing an idea you have read in your own words, such as summarising an idea from a book chapter into one sentence. The in-text citations can appear differently in your essay depending on your sentence structure. For example:

Swaminathan (2018) analyses the effect poverty has on children’s performance at school.

Some legislators laid the blame for poverty on the individual (Swaminathan, 2018).

Though many children can be exposed to adverse childhood experience, those living in lower-income areas were at greater risk (Liang & Rivera, 2018).
References


How to read a reference

You will have come across reference lists in your reading lists. Sometimes it can be difficult at first glance to tell what kind of work is listed - you may be asking yourself is this a book or an online article?

The structure of the reference will tell you what kind of resource it is. The quickest way to tell a book and an article apart is to look at the italics.

References to books have four to five pieces of information in them:

1. Author’s name
2. Date of publication
3. Title of book
4. Optional: place of publication
5. Publisher


However, journal articles have six to seven pieces of information in them:

1. Author’s name
2. Date of publication
3. Title of article
4. Title of journal
5. Volume and/or issue number
6. Page numbers
7. Online link (URL or DOI)

https://eric.ed.gov/contentdelivery/servlet/ERICServlet?accno=EJ1242911
How to construct a reference list

You need to list all the works you have cited in your essay in one list at the end of your essay. Title this list “References”. You cannot list anything in your references that you have not cited in your essay, even if you have read the book/article during your research. Arrange your reference list alphabetically.

Here are some of the types of references you may need to construct with examples:

Books with one author

Author last name, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.


Books with two authors

Author last name, first initial., Second author last name, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.


In text: (Sousa & Pilecki, 2013)
Books with a corporate author

Name of organisation. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.

**Economic and Social Research Institute.** (2008). *ESRI research strategy 2008 - 2013: Research for a changing Ireland*. ESRI.

In text: (Economic and Social Research Institute, 2008)

Books with an editor

Last name of editor, first initial. (Ed.). (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.


In text: (Whitebread, 2000)

Books with more than one editor

Last name of editor, first initial., & last name of second editor, first initial. (Eds.). (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.


In text: (Daniels & Clarkson, 2010)
Second or subsequent editions of a book


In text: (Whitehead, 2004)

A book chapter in an edited book

Author last name, first initial. (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In, last name of editor, first initial., & last name of second editor, first initial. (Eds.) *Title of book in italics* (page number range of chapter referenced). (Year of publication). Name of publisher.

In text: (Swaminathan, 2018)
Journal articles

Author last name, first initial., Second author last name, first initial. (Year of publication). Title of article. *Title of journal in italics, volume number* (issue number), page number range of article referenced. URL


In text: (Magrath & Fitzsimons, 2019)

Websites

Name of organisation / website. (date, if no date on page “n.d.”). *Title of page in italics*. Retrieved from (date you opened the page) Month day, year, from URL

News articles

Author last name, first initial., Second author last name, first initial. (Year of publication, Month day). Title of article. *Title of newspaper in italics*. URL


In text: (Power, Leahy, Horgan-Jones & O’Brien, 2020)

Government publications

Name of government department or agency. (Year of publication). *Title of publication in italics*. URL


https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/

In text: (Department of Education and Skills, 2015)

Legislation

Irish legislation

Title, source or section number if available, (Year). URL
EU legislation

European Union, Name of the EU agency. (Year). *Title of publication*. (Legislation type i.e. Regulation/Policy/Directive and Number of Legislation). URL


In-text citation: (Directorate General for Education and Culture, 2013)

Conference papers

Author last name, first initial., Second author last name, first initial. (Year of conference). Title of paper. *Name of conference proceedings in italics*. URL


In text: (Lynch & Brereton, 2019)
Theses

Author last name, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of thesis in italics* [Unpublished thesis]. Name of college or university.


In text: (Bambrick, 2019)

Dictionary entries

Name of publisher. (date of entry or “n.d.” if no date given). Word or term being defined. *In title of dictionary in italics*. Retrieved month day, year, from URL of definition


https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/pedagogy

Children’s books

Children’s books with an illustrator different to the author

Last name of author, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics* (First initial of illustrator. Last name of illustrator, Illus.). Name of publisher.
In text: (Rubin, 2012)

Children’s books with the same illustrator and author

Last name of author, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics* (First initial of illustrator. Last name of illustrator, Illus.). Name of publisher.

In text: (Sarcone-Roach, 2019)

Children’s books that are part of a series

Last name of author, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics*. Name of publisher.  
*You do not list the name of the series*

Bloomsbury.

Anniversary or republished editions of children’s books

Last name of author, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book in italics* (First initial of illustrator. Last name of illustrator, Illus.). Name of publisher. (Original work published year).
Films

Last name of director, first initial. (Year of release). *Title of film in italics [Film]. Name of production company/companies; separated by semicolons.*

**Peele, J. (2017). *Get out* [Film]. Universal Pictures; Blumhouse Productions; QC Entertainment; Monkeypaw Productions; Dentsu; Fuki Television Network.**

Films in a language other than English

Last name of director, first initial. (Year of release). *Title of film in original language in italics [Title of film in English][Film]. Name of production company.*

**Alfredson, T. (Director). (2008). *Låt den rätte komma in* [Let the right one in] [Film]. Magnolia.**

In text: (Alfredson, 2008)

TV series

Last name of executive producer, first initial. (First year of airing – last year of airing or “present” if currently airing). *Title of tv series [TV series]. Name of production company/companies; separated by semicolons.*
An episode of a TV series

Last name of writer of episode, first initial. (Writer), & Last name of director of episode, first initial. (Director). (Year of airing, month day). Name of episode (Season number, Episode number) [TV series episode]. In first initial of executive producer. Last name of executive producer, first initial of executive producer. Last name of executive producer (Executive Producers). *Title of tv series in italics.* Name of production company/companies; separated by semicolons.

Sherman-Palladino, A. (Writer & Director). (2018, December 5). All alone (Season 2, Episode 10) [TV series episode]. In A. Sherman-Palladino, D. Palladino, D. Gilbert, M. Shapiro, S. Carino, & S. Lawrence (Executive Producers), *The marvelous Mrs. Maisel.* Dorothy Parker Drank Here Productions; Picrow; Amazon Studios. In text: (Sherman-Palladino, 2018)

Finding film & TV information

You can find the writers, directors, executive producers and production companies associated with a film or tv series on IMDB: [https://www.imdb.com/](https://www.imdb.com/)
YouTube video

Name of YouTube Channel. (Year of publication, month day). *Title of video in italics* [Video]. YouTube. URL

In text: (MIE Library, 2018)

Instagram post

Name of account [@handle_of_account]. (Year of post, month day). “*First 20 words of the caption of the post in italics*” [Photograph]. Instagram. URL

In text: (Marino Institute of Education, 2020)

Instagram video

Name of account [@handle_of_account]. (Year of post, month day). “*First 20 words of the caption of the video in italics*” [Video]. Instagram. URL
Emoji

All emoji have specific names, they are listed in the Unicode Consortium here:
https://unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html

If an emoji appears in your reference you can either copy and paste it into your essay or use the short name in square brackets, like this:

[thumbs up emoji]

Instagram highlight

Name of account [@handle_of_account]. (Year of post, month day). Name of highlight in italics [Instagram highlight]. Retrieved month day, year, from URL

Malala [@malala]. (n.d.). #Wearedisplaced [Instagram highlight]. Retrieved August 18, 2020, from
https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17978775355196957/
In text: (Malala, n.d.)
Instagram profile

Last name of account holder, first initial.[@handle_of_account]. (n.d.). Posts [Instagram highlight]. Retrieved month day, year, from URL

In text: (Thunberg, n.d.)

TikTok video

Name of account [handle_of_account]. (Year of video, month day). First 20 words of caption of post in italics [Video]. TikTok. URL

Washington Post [@washingtonpost]. (2019, December 3). News is all around us #frozen #newsroom #newspaper [Video]. TikTok.
https://vm.tiktok.com/x2sKUu
In text: (Washington Post, 2019)

TikTok profile

Last name of account holder, first initial. [handle_of_account]. (n.d.). First 20 words of description / bio [TikTok profile]. TikTok. Retrieved month day, year, from URL

In text: (Witherspoon, n.d.)
Tweet

Name of account [@handle_of_account]. (Year of post, month day). *First 20 words of tweet in italics* [if any media is attached list in square brackets] [Tweet]. Twitter. URL of tweet

STER [@STER_Ire]. (2020, May 14). *Huge thanks to the @MIElibrary for creating a new open access collection where all STER articles can be viewed and downloaded!* [Image attached] [Tweet]. Twitter. https://twitter.com/STER_Ire/status/1260880859462336513

In text: (STER, 2020)

Twitter profile


Retrieved month day, year, from URL


In text: (LibraryMIE, n.d.)

Facebook post

Name of account. (Year of post, month day). *First 20 words of post in italics* [if any media is attached list in square brackets] [Status update]. Facebook. URL of post
The Library, Marino Institute of Education. (2020, March 2). *From today the extended loan allowance for students going out on placement will apply:* [Video attached] [Status update]. Facebook. 
https://www.facebook.com/MIElibrary/videos/243548606665032
In text: (The Library Marino Institute of Education, 2020)

Facebook page

Name of account. (n.d.). *Home* [Facebook page]. Facebook. Retrieved month day, year, from URL of page

The Library, Marino Institute of Education. (n.d.). *Home* [Facebook page]. Facebook. Retrieved August 18, 2020, from 
https://www.facebook.com/MIElibrary
In text: (The Library Marino Institute of Education, n.d.)

**Where to go for help**

**Library**

You can go to the library desk to ask for help with your referencing. You can contact us by phone: (01) 8057753 or by email: librarydesk@mie.ie
Online

The library has a guide to APA referencing on the website: https://mie-ie.libguides.com/apa/intro

The American Psychological Association (APA) have a comprehensive online guide to referencing: https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples

Reference Management

If you need help using a reference management tool, contact the library by phone: (01) 8057753 or email: librarydesk@mie.ie

You can also take a look at our library guide on reference management software Zotero: https://mie-ie.libguides.com/zotero