



**Writing Center**  
Bowling Green State University  
303 Moseley Hall  
(419) 372-2221  
writers@bgsu.edu

**TIPS:**

Introducing your sources builds your authority and credentials as a writer. Your audience is more likely to believe in your argument if you identify your sources and state their qualifications on the subject being discussed.

If you have questions about **MLA in-text citations**, then refer to your *Scott Foresman Handbook*. Citations are discussed on pages 780-785. Be sure to refer to MLA documentation for how to cite the source.

Make an appointment with the Writers Lab by calling 372-2221 or email us at [writers@bgsu.edu](mailto:writers@bgsu.edu) if you have any more questions about your writing!  
Revised by Amanda McGuire 2005

**Moseley Lab Hours:**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9-5  
Fri 9-3

**Bromfield Satellite Hours:**

Sun & Mon 6-10pm

**MacDonald Satellite Hours:**

Sun & Tues 6-10pm

**H. S. R. C. Satellite Hours:**

Sun & Tues 6-11pm  
Mon & Wed 6-10pm

For more satellite times, refer to our webpage at [www.bgsu.edu/offices/acen/writerslab/](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/acen/writerslab/)

# Introducing Sources (MLA Style)

- 1. Why identify and introduce sources.**
  - Many academic writing assignments require you to weave information from outside sources into your own arguments and ideas. Therefore, you should know how to best incorporate such sources into what you're writing.
- 2. Begin by introducing the author and his/her credentials.**
  - When using a source for the first time in an essay, a brief introduction of the author as well as the author's credentials is expected; you cannot rely solely on parenthetical citation. A brief introduction of the source also may be warranted, especially if it is the main source.
  - Include the author's full name, complete with any titles, such as "Dr." If you refer to the author again later in your essay, use only the author's last name. Using only the author's first name is considered too informal for academic writing.
- 3. Verbs as cues.**
  - If you introduce a source with the words "says" or "states," you should follow with a direct quotation (that's what your reader will be expecting).
  - If you are paraphrasing or summarizing a source, words like "believes," "asserts," and "maintains" are appropriate.
  - The phrase "according to" can be used with direct quotations, paraphrases, or summaries.
- 4. When citing a study...**
  - Be sure to include the following: who conducted it, when it was conducted, how it was conducted, and what population made up the participants.
  - Be sure to provide sources for all statistics.
- 5. Examples of framing devices.**
  - According to author Tim O'Brien, "Stories are underestimated by virtually all of us.[...] Stories are among the things we carry."
  - "Writers save the meaning of their lives by dealing with that meaning in writing," states Janice Lauer in *Four Worlds of Writing*.
  - Women's activist and writer Gloria Steinem says, "Writing is the only thing that, when I do it, I don't feel I should be doing something else."
  - Mark Twain insightfully comments that "the difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."