

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: MLA Citation Challenge: Can You Identify a Credible Source?

Think you can spot a scholarly journal or correctly credit a novelist? Assess your ability to recognize primary sources and distinguish between attribution styles.

1. Which of the following would be considered the most credible source for a research paper on the Silk Road trade routes?

Answer: C) A peer-reviewed article in the Journal of World History

Peer-reviewed articles are evaluated by experts in the field for accuracy and methodology, making them highly reliable for academic research.

2. In MLA format, the list of sources at the very end of an essay is titled _____.

Answer: C) Works Cited

MLA style specifically requires the title 'Works Cited' for the page listing all sources referenced in the text.

3. If you paraphrase an author's unique idea by putting it into your own words, you are still required to provide a citation.

Answer: A) True

Even if you change the wording, the original idea belongs to the author and must be credited to avoid plagiarism.

4. When looking at a website's URL, which domain extension is typically associated with non-profit organizations?

Answer: B) .org

The .org extension stands for 'organization' and is standard for non-profits, though researchers must still verify their bias or intent.

5. Identify the piece of information that is NOT typically included in a standard MLA book citation.

Answer: D) The author's birth date

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While an author's name and the book title are essential for identification, their birth date is irrelevant for a bibliographic citation.

6. An in-text citation that appears inside the sentence, such as (Morrison 42), is known as a _____ citation.

Answer: B) Parenthetical

Because the information is contained within parentheses, it is technically called a parenthetical citation.

7. Common knowledge, such as the fact that George Washington was the first U.S. President, usually does not require a citation.

Answer: A) True

Widely known facts found in numerous sources without dispute generally do not need formal attribution.

8. Which of the following is a primary source for a paper about the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

Answer: B) A letter written by Mozart to his father

A primary source is an immediate, first-hand account; a personal letter from the subject provides direct evidence from the time period.

9. When evaluating a source, checking for _____ means looking to see if the information is up-to-date and recently published.

Answer: B) Currency

Currency refers to the timeliness of information, which is critical in fields like science and technology where data changes quickly.

10. In MLA style, you should capitalize every word in a book title, including small articles like 'a' and 'the' that are in the middle of the title.

Answer: B) False

MLA style does not capitalize articles (a, an, the), prepositions, or coordinating conjunctions unless they are the first or last word of the title.