General Guidelines

- Follow general MLA citation rules where permissible.
- If you do not know the writer of the document, cite as author the government agency that issued the document, i.e. cite the name of the government first, followed by the name of the agency, using an abbreviation if the context makes it clear. (MLA Handbook 175)
- In citing two or more works by the same government, substitute three hyphens (---) for the name of each entry after the first. If you also cite more than one work by the same government agency, use an additional three hyphens (---) in place of the agency in the second entry and each subsequent one. (175)
- In citing congressional documents, include such information as the number and session of Congress, the house (S stands for Senate, H and HR for House of Representatives) (175)
- Most federal publications, regardless of the branch of government issuing them, are published by the Government Printing Office (GPO), in Washington, DC. (175)
- If known, the name of the document’s author may either begin the entry or, if the agency comes first, follow the title and the work By or an abbreviation (such as Ed. or Comp.). (176)
- When citing legal references, check The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation located at the reference desk. It is proper to use abbreviations in this context. (205)
- If you are citing a well known historical document such as the Declaration of Independence (U.S. 1776) or the Constitution of the United States (U.S. Const.), no entry is needed in the works-cited if parenthetical reference is made. Be sure to abbreviate where applicable. (206, Blue Book, 37 & 75)
- To cite an online government publication, begin with the same facts given for printed government works and conclude with information appropriate to the electronic source. (188)
- All guidelines apply not only to federal sources but to state, local and international sources, as well.

PRINTED SOURCES

U.S. Congressional Hearing

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KEY:
1. government
2. Cong. branch committee name
3. title
4. number and session of Cong.
5. type and number of publication
6. place of publication: publisher
7. year of publication
8. format

Congressional Record


Agency publication where author is known

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KEY:
1. author
2. title
3. place of publication: publisher
4. year of publication
5. format

Agency publication where author is not known

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Updated 15 October 2009, Based on MLA Handbook, 7th ed.
Public Law using *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation*


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**Court Decision using *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation***


**ONLINE SOURCES**

Note about dates: In addition to any online date given, the access date is part of the citation. If there is no online date, use only access date.

**Agency publication where author is known**


**Agency publication where author is not known**


**Map**

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