

# MLA WORKS CITED: ONLINE REFERENCE WORKS

How to reference encyclopedias and dictionaries found online, including Wikipedia

## AN ENTRY IN AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA:

- Many online reference sources such as *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online* and the *Canadian Encyclopedia* are acceptable to use for academic research.
- Give the entry's **title** in quotation marks, the **name of the website** in italics, and then the **URL**.
- Provide the name(s) of the author(s) of the entry if they are credited.

"Iceland." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, [www.britannica.com/](http://www.britannica.com/).

"McLean Gang." *Canadian Encyclopedia*, [thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/mclean-gang/](http://thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/mclean-gang/).

## AN ONLINE DICTIONARY DEFINITION:

- Instead of listing a dictionary in your Works Cited, it is best to simply name it in your discussion, writing, for example, "*Lexicom Online Dictionary* defines 'integrity' as ..." and then quoting the definition. Then you do not need a citation or a Works Cited entry.
- However, **if you decide to cite a dictionary as an actual research source**, use the model below. The entry should begin with the word you looked up—capitalized and in quotation marks, like a heading of an article. Give the name of the dictionary in italics and the URL.

"Integrity." *The Cambridge Dictionary*, [cambridge.org/dictionary/english/integrity](http://cambridge.org/dictionary/english/integrity).

## A WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE:

- *Wikipedia* is becoming **an acceptable source** to cite in academic papers. However, many teachers still **discourage** relying on it since it is updated by the public and may not be accurate.
- *Wikipedia* articles can be good places to **begin your research**, but they are not good places to end it. Be sure to **check with your teacher** if it is okay for you to cite *Wikipedia*.
- Provide **the date of the most recent update** in your Works Cited reference, followed by the **URL** leading to the archived page and the access date. To find the archived page, click on "**View history**" at the top of the main *Wikipedia* article page. You should then see a list of revisions made to the article beginning with the most recent one.

"Canadian Pollination Initiative." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Sept. 2018, [en.wikipedia.org/en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Canadian\\_Pollination\\_Initiative&oldid=858719435](http://en.wikipedia.org/en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Canadian_Pollination_Initiative&oldid=858719435). Accessed 3 Dec. 2020.

For more information, consult the *MLA Handbook* or contact the Academic Skills Centre.