

Is it an article? Is it a book? Is it credible?



Periodicals: published on a regular basis (periodically). This could be a newspaper, journal, book series, or proceedings from meetings of government and professional organizations. Also called a “serial.”



Journal: a periodical that informs its readers about advances and news in a particular subject area, like nursing or architecture. There are scholarly journals and peer-reviewed journals, which claim to have their articles vetted by professionals in a particular field, thus making them more credible.



Magazine: sometimes used interchangeably with “journal;” but in higher education, a magazine is considered a vehicle for selling products – not for informing its readers about advances in a certain profession. Magazines are identified by their many pages of advertisements and short, one-page articles, with little useful content.



Newspaper: local or national reporting of news-worthy items. Newspaper articles are summaries of original content published in other formats, and, thus, susceptible to misinterpretation. It is best to find the original publication.



Book (non-fiction): content published one time. If it is popular, the contents can be updated and published in a new edition. More time is spent editing and qualifying book content than in other types of publications, so, depending upon the bias of the publisher, books are a credible resource.



Audiovisual Media (non-fiction/documentary): documentaries can be objective (good resource) or biased (can be useful if the bias is pointed out).



White Paper: an authoritative report that informs readers about a complex issue and presents the issuing body's philosophy on the matter. It is meant to help readers understand an issue, solve a problem, or make a decision.



Corporate/government document: a presentation of facts and collected data that should be credible



Legislation: law enacted by a legislature, which can be verified, and, therefore, is credible.



Court decision: a legal action that determines the rights and liabilities of parties involved in a court proceeding, which can be verified, and, therefore, is credible.



Dissertation/Thesis: usually required for an advanced academic degree; it presents author's research with lengthy exposition of a topic; content is vetted by academic committee and is credible



Websites (particularly .coms)/blogs: content found on the Internet can be posted by anyone anonymously, and without verification; unless effort is made to find original documents, this information is suspect.

Office: Library & Writing Center

Date: 8/21/2018

	<u>Generally credible</u> (fact-based, peer-reviewed, primary research, minimal bias) Seek out!
	<u>Credibility can vary widely</u> (may have biases, financial interests, agendas) Research source more!
	<u>Generally not credible</u> (agenda-driven, limited facts, opinion-based, highly biased) Avoid!

Online Research Databases

Some databases, like Electronic Journal Center (EJC), cite only journal articles. Some databases, like Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), cite mainly journal articles, but also include book chapters, dissertations, and proceedings. Some resources combine several databases in one search strategy (see “Search All” on the Library Resources for Graduate Studies” page). These combined resources will cite journal articles, book chapters, proceedings, newspaper articles, white papers, dissertations and theses, and more.

Clues to determining what kind of publication the citation represents:

Journals/periodicals/serials will include the volume and issues numbers, for example: **23(4)** in the citation. The citation will also include page numbers for the article: **87–94**. There may also be an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number): **ISSN 1046-7890**, associated with this resource.

Books will include the publisher and the city of the publisher, for example: **New York: Elsevier**. If the citation is for a book chapter, the chapter title and pages will also be listed. There may also be an ISBN (International Standard Book Number): **10: 1-4338-0561-8**, associated with this resource.

Audiovisual Media will list a **producer** and a **director**, and will provide the **format** in parenthesis: (DVD), (podcast), (television series episode).

A white paper citation will look like a journal citation as these documents are usually printed in a journal, but it will also include the sponsoring organization and **states that it is a white paper**.

Legislation citations state the **body enacting the legislation**, for example: H.R. for House of Representatives, and a **unique number** assigned to it, including the year.

Court decisions will list the **name v. name** of the parties involved in the case.

A dissertation or thesis will list the author first, then the title of the work, then will state in parenthesis the fact that it is a **dissertation** or **thesis**.

Electronic versions of documents, websites, blogs, etc. found on the Internet will include a **URL** (uniform resource locator) or a **DOI** (digital object identifier).

Citing your sources for Mercy College assignments: You will encounter resources that use other publication styles. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style emphasizes the authorship of a work and page number to locate the exact text, whereas the American Psychological Association (APA) emphasizes the authorship and the date. Especially in the healthcare field, the date the information was published is of primary importance. Be sure to convert citations to APA style for your work here at Mercy College. See APA guides posted on the Mercy website for help with APA formatting.