Core Elements of a Citation
Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

This guide offers samples applying core elements to different source formats. The challenge is to correctly identify the core elements of your source.
It may be difficult to identify citation information from web pages/sites. Gather as much information as you can to formulate a complete citation using the core elements as your guide.

Core Elements of a Citation

Author.
Title of source.
Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.
(some sources may require a second or third use of this list)

- URL is the location for Internet resources but is optional; omit http:// or https://
- Access date is optional

There may be more than one way to cite your source, as represented by the following:


In-text or parenthetical citation directs readers to the full citations for sources in a Works Cited page.

To avoid plagiarism one must reference a source when using thoughts or words as a direct quote, paraphrase, or discussion. Unless stating your personal opinion, drawing conclusions, or writing creative material, all facts, background data and ideas must be acknowledged.

Refer to the author's name in the text, and put the page number in parentheses.
Smith states that the growth of cities was an integral part of the nation’s economic development (47).

Include the author’s name with the page number if you have not mentioned it in your text.
The growth of cities was in integral part of the nation's economic development (Hays 47).

If there is no author, use the first word of the title in quotation marks followed by the page(s) (“Chronicle” 8-9).

If there are several works by one author, include the first word from the title (or more if needed to further identify the source (Nardo, "Ancient" 94).

A web address or URL is NEVER correct for in-text citation.

NoodleTools can also format in-text citations. https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/
Use OWL URL above for advanced in-text samples.