

Citation Format for Free Websites

Before using a free website for research, first evaluate whether its authors are experts on your topic. Look at their degrees, work experience, and previous publications. If you can't find this type of information, you should not use that website for research. After checking for expertise, evaluate the website for substance and currency.

When citing free websites:

- indicate both the individual webpage title of your source (in quotes) and the overall name of the website (in italics); if these are identical, provide only the overall name of the website
- if the name of the site's publisher or sponsor is not available, leave it out of your citation
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- if specified by your teacher, include the URL but without http:// or https://
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Basic Format

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Individual Webpage/Document Title." *Overall Name of Website*, Publisher of Website, Publication Date, URL. Access Date.

Citation Examples

Free website without author information

"What Is a Current?" *National Ocean Service*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 13 June 2014. Accessed 25 Oct. 2016.

Free website with author information and URL

Bergen, Peter. "What Happens after ISIS Loses Mosul?" *CNN*, Cable News Network, 10 Oct. 2017, www.cnn.com/2016/10/17/opinions/fight-against-isis-mosul-bergen. Accessed 25 Oct. 2016.