

## Always Provide

### Context

Orient your reader. Provide contextual information, like background information, publication, author's credentials, necessary dates, etc.

### Attribution

Ensure the reader knows who is speaking. Introduce sources using their full names. Then, refer to them by last name.

### Significance

Explain why you are including the source and how it helps develop your thesis.

### Citation

Use the appropriate citation style (MLA, APA, Chicago) to show readers where they can find the source.

## Writerly Moves: How to Use Sources

- **Establish what's at stake** – Use a source to clarify why the issue matters and who is affected.
- **Provide background** – Use a source to explain the history or context of a problem or situation.
- **Support claims with evidence** – Include data, studies, or expert opinions to back up your main points.
- **Explain a shift in your thinking** – Reference a source that complicated your view or led you to revise your position.
- **Identify gaps in other arguments** – Use a source to point out what others have missed and show how your essay fills that gap.
- **Enhance your credibility** – Cite trustworthy, authoritative sources to strengthen your own argument.
- **Introduce counterarguments** – Include sources that challenge your stance to show you've considered multiple perspectives and refined your argument.

**Sources will not speak  
for themselves;  
explain the  
significance of the  
source and its function  
in your paper!**

## MLA Style Example

The hit show *Jack Ryan*, serves as an example of how media representations can reinforce biases regarding gender, culture, and identity through the characterization of Arab and Muslim female characters. Those who adopt Western lifestyles or values are often shown as allies or even protagonists, whereas those who adhere to their cultural or religious practices are frequently portrayed as antagonists or victims. Media scholar Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb explains that American media portray Arab and Muslim women positively when they "looked and acted like Western Women" (17). So, as long as Arab and Muslim women fit Western ideals, they will be treated as darlings and seen as favorable. Women who do not conform to norms are portrayed as submissive or threatening. By consistently associating positive attributes with Westernized portrayals and negative traits with non-conformity, *Jack Ryan* perpetuates the notion that Arab and Muslim women must conform to Western norms to be deemed acceptable or relatable in Western media.

The author sets up the **context** for the reader.

The source is **attributed** and **cited** in MLA style.

The author explains the **significance** of the source.

## Why It Works

The source in the paragraph is integrated well due to the:

- **Context:** Offers an example that the audience can relate to, a popular television show, and then introduces a scholarly source as evidence for the topic sentence of the paragraph.
- **Attribution:** Introduces the source as a media scholar, uses her title, and offers her full name, which enhances the argument's authority.
- **Explanation:** The authors expands on what Dr. Muhtaseb has said in the direct quote to directly support the discussion on media biases against Arab and Muslim women.
- **Citation:** Correct MLA citation maintains academic integrity.

## Examples of Source Integration in MLA Style

### Example 1: Direct Quotation with a Signal Phrase

In discussing the risks of algorithmic bias, Safiya Umoja Noble warns, “Without interventions, algorithms will continue to reflect and amplify existing social inequalities” (120).

### Example 2: Paraphrasing with In-Text Citation

Angela Davis argues that the prison system perpetuates racial and economic injustice by disproportionately targeting marginalized communities (78). This suggests that mass incarceration is not just a legal issue but a systemic social problem requiring reform.

### Example 3: Embedding a Quotation within a Sentence

According to W.E.B. Du Bois, “The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line” (9), highlighting the enduring significance of racial inequality in American history.

### Example 4: Introducing a Quote with Context

James Baldwin critiques American identity and race relations, arguing that “people are trapped in history, and history is trapped in them” (14). This suggests that historical injustices continue to shape contemporary social structures and perceptions of race.