While the information below describes how to properly cite figures in papers, similar rules apply for academic posters. To cite a figure, put the description under the item and put the full citation in "References."

**Figures**

The purpose of *figures* is to present visual information directly relevant to the content of the paper, especially information that would be hard to explain in written text. A figure may be your own design, be based on your own original research, or present information from published sources.

A variety of figures can be used to clarify ideas:

- Bar graphs
- Line graphs
- Charts (pie charts, flow charts, organizational charts)
- Diagrams, maps and drawings
- Photographs

Some general terms and strategies can be helpful when using figures. Each figure should have a caption with three elements: a figure number, a descriptive phrase, and a source citation, if necessary.

- **Figure number**: Figures are numbered using Arabic numerals consecutively throughout the paper; e.g.: Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc. Figure numbers are located below the figure in non-italicized text.
- The caption’s *descriptive phrase* concisely informs readers of the content of the figure. It is not italicized, and appears after the figure number, with only the first word and proper nouns capitalized; e.g.: South American literacy rates, 2008.
- The *source citation* is formatted like an entry in the Works Cited list, except that the publication facts go in parentheses and the periods are replaced by semicolons.
- Figures in MLA are generally placed as close to the corresponding text as possible.

**Refer to figures within the text of your paper.** Provide a parenthetical insertion within the text of the paper at the point where you wish the reader to refer to the figure; e.g.: (see fig. 1).

If you do not use original content, **a source citation must be included**. Include all source information with the figure; if you do not use the source elsewhere in the text, you do not need to cite the source on the Works Cited page. See example below.

Additional Resources:
For figures in works using MLA: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/14/
For figures in works using APA:
• https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/19/
• http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca/sites/default/files/apaguide_referencing_for_posters_with_images.pdf (includes sample posters)