

Showing Citation Boundaries

Sample MLA Paper from *Keys for Writers*, 5th Ed.

Directions: Using the sample student paper written with MLA style guidelines, “Safety First,” from *Keys for Writers*, identify how you think the writer defines the boundaries between her ideas and the information from her sources.

When examining the following citations, read the sentences before and after the one containing the citation. How do you know when the writer shifts back to her own ideas? **1) Highlight any reporting signals or other language that indicates that the upcoming idea(s) is from an outside source. 2) Write down the beginning of the sentence in which you feel the writer’s voice is evident to you OR in which you feel the writer has shifted to *another source*.** (*Check *before* and *after* the citation. You may have to read to the end of the paragraph.)

Example:

1. In the introduction on page 1, citation of **(Mignone)**:

[Students are expected to write something like the following]:

The writer described a firefighter’s response in an interview to support her opening idea. The source idea is contained in the sentence, “In an interview . . .” The writer’s voice returns in the next sentence beginning with “However, because society . . .”

2. On page 1, the paragraph beginning with “In order to become police officers . . .”
Citation of **(Rafilson, “Legislative”)**
3. On page 2, the paragraph beginning with “Recognizing that the physical fitness tests. . .”
Citation of **(Rafilson, *Police Officer* 40 - 42):**
4. On page 2, in the top paragraph (paragraph beginning with “Recognizing that the physical fitness tests. . .” on page 2)
Citation of ***The Police Chief* (Polisar and Milgram):**

5. On page 3, the paragraph beginning with “More and more police and fire departments . . .”
The citation of **Dr. Fred M. Rafilson (“Legislative”)**:

6. On page 3, the paragraph beginning with “Many see upper body strength as crucial . . .”
Citation of **Thomas P. Butler (qtd. In Baker)**:

(Same paragraph) Citation of **(Rafilson, “Legislative”)**:

7. On page 4, the paragraph beginning with “This view is the consensus . . .”
Citation of **(Rafilson, “Legislative”)**:

8. On pages 4-5, the paragraph beginning with “Title VII under this Act claims . . .”
Citation of **Michael E. Brooks (31)**:

9. On page 5, the paragraph beginning with “Controversy and confusion abound . . .”
Citation of **(Champion)**:

10. On pages 5-6, the paragraph beginning with “The process of applying to be hired . . .”
Citation of **Peter Horne (33 - 34)**: