

In-Text Citations

The Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines follow the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text. These in-text parenthetical citations correspond to the full bibliographic entries found in a list of references (Works Cited page) at the end of your paper.

Single author

The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Anonymous Work/Author Unknown

If the work you are citing to has no author, use an abbreviated version of the work's title. (For non-print sources, such as films, TV series, pictures, or other media, or electronic sources, include the name that begins the entry in the Works Cited page). For example:

An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("Wordsworth Is a Loser" 100).

If there are two or three authors

If a source has two or three authors, place all of the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation:

A team can be defined as "a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable" (Katzenbach and Smith 45).

If there is more than one work by the same author

If a document uses more than one work by an individual author, include an abbreviated form of the title of the work in addition to the author's name and page number(s). Separate the author's name and the title with a comma:

Hypertextuality makes text borderless as it "redefines not only beginning and endings of the text but also its borders – its sides, as it were" (Landow, *Hypertext 2.0* 79)

If the source has a corporate author

If a source has a corporate author, include the author's name and the page(s). If the corporate author's name is long, it should be included in the text rather than the parenthesis:

According to the Centre for Development and Population Activities, interest in gender roles and responsibilities over the past decade has been "driven by the realization that women often do not benefit from development activities and in some cases become even poorer and more marginalized" (3).

Work found in an anthology or edited collection

For an essay, short story or other document included in an anthology or edited collection, use the name of the author of the specific work and the page numbers from the anthology or collection:

Lawrence Rosenfield analyzed the way in which New York's Central Park held a socializing function for nineteenth-century residents similar to that of traditional republican civic oratory (222).

Web page:

If you use a web site, and there is no author given, put the group who runs the web site in parentheses:

Abraham Lincoln's birthplace was designated as a National Historical Site in 1959 (National Park Service). Note: Internet citations follow the style of printed works. Personal or corporate author and page number should be given if they exist on the website.

Congress is currently considering raising the minimum wage by \$1.50, from \$5.15 to \$6.65 per hour in three installments. Congress last enacted legislation in 1996, increasing the minimum wage by 90 cents from 1996-1997 (Almanac of Policy Issues).

Articles on On-Line Databases:

If you use an article from an on-line database (such as *Opposing Viewpoints*), put the author(s) names in parentheses:

HMOs are the chief instrument we have found to put a brake on costs. But whenever they take some measure to achieve this worthy goal, howls erupt from people who liked the old way of doing things just fine--and think money is no object (Stephen Chapman).

Secondary source of a quotation (someone quoted within the text of another author):

Use the name of the person you are quoting in your sentence and state the source and page number from which the quotation was taken:

As Erickson reminds us, the early psychoanalysts focused on a single objective: "introspective honesty in the service of self enlightenment" (qtd in Weiland 42)

Block Quotation

If the quotation you are using consists of more than three lines of text, you need to use a block quotation. To accomplish this, indent the lines of quoted text from both the right and left margins. No quotations are needed.

If your document is double spaced, the block quotation is double space as well.

Example:

Yet consciousness is also an end in itself. Long traditions of working-class self-activity have properly focused on concrete material gains or desired structures of social organization, but only as instruments for enduring alienation and for promoting democracy and justice. (Lipsitz 128)

In a block quotation, the period marking the end of the quotation precedes the parenthesis.

Works Cited

MLA Parenthetical Documentation. 16 March 2004. LEO: Literacy Education. 29 November 2006
<<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/research/mlaparen.html>>.

MLA: In-Text parenthetical Citations. 28 July 2004. Duke University Libraries. 29 November 2006
<<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/MLA.htm>>.

MLA Style. 2006. The Writing Center at Rensselaer. 10 January 2007
<<http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/mla.html>>.