Citing Sources in Text:

*In MLA style, references to sources are placed in the text of the paper in order to briefly identify sources for readers and enable them to locate the source of the cited information in the Works Cited page. These (parenthetical) references should be kept as brief and clear as possible and stated near the information they are addressing.

**Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

- Give only the information needed to identify a source – usually the author’s last name and a page reference.
  - Ex: This concern has been expressed (Dover 118-21).
- When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number.
  - Ex: We see so many global warming hotspots in North America because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).
  - Ex: “That power took you to save Sirius tonight. That power also saved you from possession by Voldemort…” (Harry Potter 844).

- Place parenthetical references as near as possible to the material being cited but where a pause would naturally occur – preferably the end of a sentence. If multiple facts come from one author combine two to four sources and cite the source at the end.

- Punctuation does NOT vary between direct quotes and paraphrased information; the punctuation follows the parenthetical reference.
  - Ex: “Ring Pops are a national phenomenon that will never die out” (Corpulent 7).
  - Ring Pops have been a long lasting fad that experts do not expect to die any time soon (Corpulent 7).
Parenthetical information should complement, not repeat, information that is given in your text. If the author is named in the sentence there is no need to put the name in the parenthetical statement. Also, if the author’s name is stated once within the paragraph, it does not have to be stated again as long as the author does not change. Just the new page number should be stated within the parentheses.
  o Ex: Dover has expressed this concern (118-21).

Electronic and online sources are cited just like print resources cited in the text. When creating in-text citations for electronic, film, or Internet sources, remember that your citation must reference the source in your Works Cited.

Writers can be confused with how to craft parenthetical citations for electronic sources because of the absence of page numbers, but often, these sorts of entries do not require any sort of parenthetical citation at all.
  o For electronic and Internet sources, follow the following guidelines:
    ▪ Include in the text the first item AS IT APPEARS in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (ex: Author name, article name, website name, or film name). You do NOT need to give paragraph numbers.

Special Cases:

  • Works by multiple authors:
    o More enjoyment can be found in life if you poke the bear (Smith and Benson 173).
    o The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

  • Citing indirect sources:
    o Sometimes you may have to use an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted.
      ▪ For example: Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

  • Information is split in two locations:
    o “Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and Oreos make the best Concrete Mixer.” (Theis 1-3, 81)

  • Two sources from the same author, the title of the book needs to be underlined:
    o (Theis, The Way it Is 79)
    o (Theis, Eat Ice Cream Every Day 47).
Combining information from two authors should be stated normally but is separated by a SEMI-COLON:
  o Awkward actions can sometimes be used as an ice breaker, about three percent of the time they help to start friendships (Ludwig 72; Utech 57).

Encyclopedias: (“Topic”) No page number is required, since the readers can easily look up the word or entry.
  o According to Patterson’s Encyclopedia, no team will ever top the girls of 2010 (“Swimming”).

Multivolume Works:

  • References to volumes and page numbers
    o (Henderson 2: 1-3)
  • References to entire volumes
    o (Henderson vol. 2)

When an In-Text Citation is NOT needed:

Common sense and ethics should determine your need for documenting sources. You do not need to give sources for familiar proverbs, well-known quotations or common knowledge. Remember, common knowledge is information that most people in your AGE GROUP should know.

Information taken from: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
MLA 2009 Format
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