

MLA IN-TEXT (PARENTHETICAL) CITATIONS

Parenthetical citations are additions made to a quote or paraphrase to let the audience know where the quoted or paraphrased material originates.

Oftentimes, parenthetical citations are found enclosed in parentheses marks [e.g. ()].

When you use a secondary source (e.g. a book, an article from a journal, a website) to form a quote or paraphrase, it is necessary to include a parenthetical citation with the quoted/paraphrased/summarized material.

EX:

One artist acknowledged that "Comedy is a way of life" (Sheldon 127).

Notice how the citation (located after the quoted material) has both the last name of the author and the page number where the secondary source material is found.

NON-LITERARY DOCUMENTS

SINGLE AUTHOR

When the Author is named (or provided) before the quote, only the page number is needed.

EX:

Professor Michael Gutierrez suggests "Plasmids may hold the foundation to unlocking and defeating all forms of bacterial" (56).

However, if the author is not named before the quote, then the author's name and page number should be included in the parenthetical citation.

EX:

One professor suggests "Plasmids may hold the foundation to unlocking and defeating all forms of bacteria" (Gutierrez 56).

Notice how the author's last name is included with the page number in the parenthetical citation.

TWO AUTHORS

When two authors are provided, the rules above apply. However, you should use both of the author's last names with the conjunction AND between them.

EX:

According to the biography, "Hemingway was a large, portly man" (Jackson and Porter 227).

MULTIPLE AUTHORS

When more than two authors are provided, the rules above apply. However, you should write out up to three last names.

EX:

The work claims that "Firefighting is becoming progressively safer because of the different fire-retardant materials being developed" (Stern, Hancock, and Foley 65).

If there are more than three authors, the rules above apply. However, you should write the term et al. (which means "and others") following the last name of the first listed author.

EX:

Jacque Derrida was one of the most influential deconstructionists of our time (Hall, et al. 158).

NO AUTHOR

When no author is found, it is necessary to use a short (or condensed) version of the title.

EX:

One scholar suggests, "Eli Whitney created a few other novel devices in his time" ("Beyond the Gin" 74).

Note: There is no author for this source; there is only a title.

NO PAGE NUMBERS

When no page numbers can be found, it is necessary to put only the author's last name before or after your secondary source material.

EX:

Bloom states, "Technology is one of the most complicated entities"

-OR-

One source states, "Technology is one of the most complicated entities" (Bloom).

If no author is found as well, it is necessary to put a short (or condensed) version of the title.

EX:

One source states "People never give enough... I'm talking about philanthropy" ("Donating Time").

MORE THAN ONE WORK BY THE SAME AUTHOR

When writing contains multiple works by the same author, you must use the author's last name, include a short version of the title of the work used, and the page number (if applicable).

EX:

Electronic cars are becoming more and more prevalent, yet many different types of fuel have been considered. One author suggests, "I remember when ethanol was a consideration" (Johnson, "Ethanol" 57). In a different work, the author claims "Ethanol was just not as reliable in terms of mileage, nor was it economic when paired to its value to the food chain" (Johnson, "Food or Fuel" 321).

INDIRECT SOURCE

When you use a quotation which appears in another work, it is customary to list the original author's name in front of the quote and the abbreviation qtd. in ("quoted in") followed by the source named in your bibliography (or "Works Cited").

EX:

Jameson shows that "There is no denial involved in being caught red-handed" (qtd in. Henry 45).

Note that Jameson is the original author of the quote, yet the quote appears in a document written or collected by Henry.

TWO OR MORE WORKS IN THE SAME CITATION

When using two or more works in the same paraphrase, you should use conventional citations with a semi-colon to separate them.

EX:

The environmental impact of such damage has yet to be assessed. We may be looking at a complete loss (Kittridge 65; Davison 227).

LITERATURE (OR LITERARY DOCUMENTS)

When using literary texts, it is customary (not always necessary) to reference the particular lines and or part/chapters of the text.

EX: (FOR NOVELS)

Twain's remarks were initially positive to say the least, "We had a fine supper, of the freshest meats and fowls and vegetables--a great variety and as great abundance" (63; ch. 18).

EX: (FOR POETRY)

We can tell about Ehrmann's disposition by recanting his words, "Avoid loud and aggressive people, they are vexations to the spirit/If you compare yourself to others you may become vain or bitter/There will always be people greater and lesser than yourself" (5-7).

EX: (FOR LONGER FORMS OF POETRY AND PLAYS)

One can sense Benvolio's hesitation when he states, "--- The day is hot, the Capulets abroad, And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl; For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring" (Shakespeare 684; 3.1.2).

Notice how the information for this play is listed as page number; act. scene. line. And, note that all of the information for the source is enclosed in parentheses.

BIBLICAL OR SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

When using religious texts, it is customary (not always necessary) to reference the particular chapters and verses which contain the secondary source material.

EX:

An interesting maxim can be found here: "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good" (Prov. 19.8)

-OR-

Buddhists are very specific about violence "Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill" (Evil. 131).

USING QUOTED, PARAPHRASED, AND SUMMARY MATERIAL

APA style requires that all quotes, paraphrases, and parenthetical summaries include the year of publication, the author's name, and page number (s) appear in an in-text citation.

EX:

One source suggests, "The universe is part of a larger consciousness" (Johnson 45-55).

EX:

Johnson suggests, "The universe is part of a larger consciousness" (45-55).

BLOCK QUOTATIONS

Any quotation longer than forty words should be placed into BLOCK form. Do not use quotation marks. Blocks are indented (about half an inch).

If a new paragraph is started, place two indents to help to identify the start of the new paragraph.

EX:

Berk states:

The predicate is typically the structure that follows the subject. If the subject is an agent, causer, or instrument, the predicate will express the action carried out by that subject; if the subject is something which is being described, the predicate will provide the description; if the subject is patient, the predicate will indicate what happened to the subject. For most speakers, the notion of predicate that is separate from the subject is fairly intuitive.

The English predicate must contain a verb; it can contain other structures—a direct object, an indirect object, various complement structures, and adverbs—but it must contain a verb. While most imperative utterances omit the subject (Sit down; Drink your milk), there are no English sentences in which the verb is omitted. In many ways the verb controls what happens grammatically in the sentence. (25)

As Berk suggests, the predicate and the verb provide a substantial service to each sentence.

Remember: Many instructors will require that you provide a comment, summary, or other note after the long block quote.

AUTHOR LISTING

Last Name (1 author)

Last Name & Last Name (2 authors)

Last Name, Last Name, and Last Name (up to 5 authors)

Last Name, et al. (more than 6 authors)

Corporation/Company/Association/Organization Name.

PAGINATION

Simple indicate the page number/s from which the quoted/paraphrased or summarized material originates.

SOURCE WITHOUT PAGES

Sources without page numbers do not require pages numbers in the citation. However, some citations will require paragraph numbers (if paragraph numbers are provided with the source).

SOURCES WITH NO DATE

Write (n.d.)

SOURCES WITH NO AUTHOR

Begin with the title and end with a period.



PARENTHETICAL CITATION PROCEDURES

1. Work with One Author

Author (#).

-or-

..... (#).

EX:

Johnson suggests, ““The universe is part of a larger consciousness” (45-55).

-or-

One source suggests, “The universe is part of a larger consciousness” (Johnson 45-55).

2. Work with Two Authors

Author and Author..... (#).

-or-

..... (Author & Author #)

Note: An ampersand may be used in place of AND (&).

EX:

Richards and Ogden suggest, "Symbols direct and organize, record and communicate" (30)

-or-

Two authors suggest, "Symbols direct and organize, record and communicate" (Richards & Ogden 30).

3. Work with Three to Five Authors

Author, Author, Author, and Author..... (#).

-or-

..... (Author, Author, Author, & Author, Year #).

4. Work with Six or More Authors

Author, et al..... (#).

-or-

..... (#).

5. Work with an Unknown Author/No Author

Use the first word or two of the original title.

Title (#).

-or-

..... (Title #).

Note: Make sure to put the comma inside the last quotation mark in your citation.

The ancient text, *Rhetorica ad Herennium*, "examples, they say, serve the purpose of testimony; for, like the testimony of a witness, the example enforces what the precept has suggested..." (243).

-or-

One source suggests, “examples, they say, serve the purpose of testimony; for, like the testimony of a witness, the example enforces what the precept has suggested...” (Rhetorica 243)

6. Work with an Organization/Company Author

Organization/Company Name..... (#).

-or-

..... (Organization/Company Name #).

EX:

7. Work with Authors with the Same Last Name

To avoid confusion, use the first initial(s) with the last names.

Initial. + Author..... (#).

-or-

.....(Initial. + Author #).

EX:

8. Two or More Works by the Same Author

When writing contains multiple works by the same author, you must use the author's last name, include a short version of the title of the work used, and the page number (if applicable).

Author, Title..... (#).

-or-

..... (Author, Title #).

EX:

9. Two or More Works in the same parentheses

Author and Author.....

-or-

..... (Author; Author).

10. Personal Communications (letters/Email)

Use the first initial and the words "personal communication" and the date (month day, year).

Author..... (personal communication, day month, year).

-or-

..... (Author, Personal Interview, day month, year).

EX:

Prof. Jeffrey Samuelson, in a letter, posits that "Humankind exists in this century with a most profound exhibition of narcissism" (personal communication, 14 April 2014).

-or-

One sociologist suggested that "Humankind exists in this century with a most profound exhibition of narcissism" (Jeffrey Samuelson, personal communication, 14 April 2014)

11. Electronic Sources

If the source has numbered paragraphs, then use the abbreviation "para." If the source contains heading, then cite the heading.

Author..... (para.#).

-or-

Author..... (para. #).

12. Indirect Sources

If a source was cited in another source, list the original source on your References list, as well as the source you are using. In the parenthetical citation, make sure to put the words "qtd. in" before the new source's author's name.

(Original Author).....(qtd. in New Author, Year, p.#).

13. Sacred or Classical Text

Identify the text, version, and chapter, verse, and line. You do not have to cite the source on the reference list.

Version..... (Text #:#).

EX:

In the Old Testament of the New International Version 2011, one passage suggests, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

When using literary texts, it is customary (not always necessary) to reference the particular lines and or part/chapters of the text.

EX: (FOR NOVELS)

Twain's remarks were initially positive to say the least, "We had a fine supper, of the freshest meats and fowls and vegetables--a great variety and as great abundance" (63; ch. 18).

EX: (FOR POETRY)

We can tell about Ehrmann's disposition by recanting his words, "Avoid loud and aggressive people, they are vexations to the spirit/If you compare yourself to others you may become vain or bitter/There will always be people greater and lesser than yourself" (5-7).

EX: (FOR LONGER FORMS OF POETRY AND PLAYS)

One can sense Benvolio's hesitation when he states, "--- The day is hot, the Capulets abroad, And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl; For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring" (Shakespeare 684; 3.1.2).

Notice how the information for this play is listed as page number; act. scene. line. And, note that all of the information for the source is enclosed in parentheses.