

In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Documentation) in MLA Format

The examples are based on:

The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

The Basic Rules

In general, include both the author's last name and the page number(s) of your quote or source material in your citation.

Most of these kinds of incidents occur in small rural towns, where neighbors are few and far between (Eckel 234).

If you mention the author's name in your text, just include the page number in your citation.

In his book, *Poison Ivy Terrorism*, Eckel makes the assertion that these kinds of incidents occur mostly in small rural towns, where neighbors are few and far between (234).

For a work by two or three authors, include the last name of each author.

Legal challenges of this type “are more work than they are worth in the long run” (Burgundy, Roman, and Mafmuz 79).

For a work by more than three authors, either include the last name of the author with “et al.” or include the last names of all of the authors. (Make sure to keep this option consistent with how it looks in your works cited list.)

The roads to California at that time were full of Okies on their way “to the land where the streets were paved with gold” (Gillette et al. 78-79).

OR

The roads to California at that time were full of Okies on their way “to the land where the streets were paved with gold” (Gillette, Magruder, Tripleby, and Eckel 78-79).

For web sources, which most often do not use page numbers, omit any page reference. If the web site uses paragraph numbers, cite the paragraph number after the abbreviation “par.”

NO PAGE OR PARAGRAPH NUMBER:

A person having difficulty concentrating may actually be suffering from an anxiety disorder (Minas).

Specific Examples

CITING AN ENTIRE WORK:

If you wish to cite an entire work, the general rule is to cite the author's name in your text, NOT in a parenthetical reference.

BOOK:

Hillary Clinton's concern for the psychological needs of children runs all through *It Takes A Village*.

PERIODICAL ARTICLE:

According to Charles E. Cobb, Jr., traditional African religions still shape the identity of Bahia state in Brazil.

WEB ARTICLE:

Robert Christgau claims that Eminem's profanity does not detract from the artistic value of his music.

CITING A SECTION OF A WORK:

BOOK:

What do we gain by thinking of our great nation as a white nation (Rich 645)?

Although it is important to remember that, as Adrienne Rich so poignantly states, the U.S. was never solely "a white country" (645).

PERIODICAL ARTICLE:

The danger is that struggling airlines will attempt to declare bankruptcy, and force the U.S. government to save their employees' pension plans (Helyar 40-42).

According to Helyar, struggling airlines may very well try to get the U.S. government to shore up their employees' pension plans by declaring bankruptcy after the 2004 Presidential election (40-42).

WEB ARTICLE:

According to Isabel Allende, the military coup in Chile and the concurrent assassination of Salvador Allende precipitated "a very hard time in my life" (Allende). Note that no page number is indicated because the

web site had no page numbers.

In the biographical slide show on her web site, Isabel Allende states that life in Chile was arduous after the military coup of 1973.

CITING A WORK LISTED BY TITLE: (cite by title when there is no author listed)

Rule: Use a shortened form of the title

BOOK:

James Earl Ray was shown to have traveled to Canada in July 1967 (*Investigation* 317).

PERIODICAL ARTICLE:

Despite the credibility problems that the United State government had with its Iraq weapons intelligence, its response to the Iranian-EU3 agreement appears to indicate that “it either has no idea of its credibility problem or doesn’t care” (“Engaging Tehran” 3).

WEB ARTICLE:

A recent medical study indicates that there is an increased risk for psychosis in people who smoke marijuana (“Marijuana Use”).

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