



MLA-Style In-Text Citations

**Reference Department
Albert S. Cook Library**

These examples are based on *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, RESERVE LB2369.G53 2003. Refer to pp. 237-59 of that publication and your professor for other examples.

General Rule

Every parenthetical citation must correspond to an entry in your "Works Cited" list.

Give the surname of the author (editor, translator, compiler, etc.). If you are referring to a particular part of a work, follow the surname by a space and a page number or numbers. If the author is clear from the prose outside the parentheses, omit the surname.

Smith demonstrates this phenomenon (22-24).

This phenomenon has been demonstrated (Smith 178-85).

Put citations in places where they do not disrupt the natural flow of your language.

Punctuating Citations

Normally, punctuation in your own writing follows the parenthetical citation.

What are the implications of Smith's analysis (24-27)?

However, follow a block quote with whatever punctuation it requires, then a space, then the parenthetical citation. A block quote is a long, indented quote, not surrounded by quotation marks.

Citing Works by Two or Three Authors

Give all the surnames. Write "and" out.

Griff and Blum offer a fresh reading of this novel (242).

This novel drew critical attention recently (James, Blum, and Smith 22).

Citing Works by Four or More Authors

Either give all the authors' surnames or give the first author's surname followed by et al. (with a period).

(Blaine et al. 75)

Citing Works by Authors Who Have Same Last Name

Give the first initial of each author as well as the surname. If this does not differentiate them, give the whole first name.

Citing Two or More Works by the Same Author

Include the title, if it is brief, or an abbreviated version of the title after the surname and a comma.

(Smith, Cartoon Heroines 80)

Citing More than One Work at Once

Separate the references by semicolons.

(Brown 40; Smith 50; Green 22-23)

Citing Works without Page Numbers

If there are paragraph numbers instead of page numbers, give par. or pars. followed by the relevant number(s). If the author's surname is included in the citation, put a comma after it.

(Smith, par.16)

If the work has a kind of subdivision other than paragraph, substitute the name of that subdivision for "par."

...the image of Cinderella (Brown, screens 2-3).

If you cite a whole volume, use the abbreviation, "vol." However, a page within a volume is expressed like this:

(Wright 5: 33)

If there are no sections, cite the whole work. The best way to do this is to include the author's name in your text.

Page numbers in a print-out from a Web site do not count as page numbers unless--as is the case with pdf files--the pagination is the same as the original document.

Citing a Work Listed by Title in the "Works Cited" List

Put the title, if it is brief, or an abbreviated version of the title where you would normally put the author's surname. Abbreviate the title by removing words from its end.

Citing Works by a Corporation

If the corporation's name is long, it is better to put it in your text than in parentheses. When naming corporate authors inside the parentheses, shorten terms commonly abbreviated—making "National" "Natl.," for example.

Citing a Quotation Cited in Another Work

Include the words "qtd. in" before a citation for the secondary source:

Green imagines a "new type of oligarchy" (qtd. in Smith 232)

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