



The Modern Language Association

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Based on the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Intended Uses and Disclaimers: Consultants do not provide copyediting services for citation styles. This worksheet is intended to help writers learn how to work with citations appropriately on their own. While it provides a basic overview of the MLA style, you will still need to look up each type of source you're working with in an MLA guide when formatting your references. Always check with your professor if you have questions!

Parenthetical Citations

Parenthetical citations serve a cross-referencing purpose. Readers should be able to look at a parenthetical citation referring to "Smith," for example, and then look up "Smith" on the alphabetical list of sources on the Works Cited page to see the full citation.

Parenthetical citations should include the following information:

1. The author's last name
2. The page number, if applicable

Example: (Smith 24)

Working With Quotations

Introduce quotations with signal phrases written in your own words. Signal phrases should be in the present tense.

Smith notes that "the crab festival began in 1973, but fireworks were not introduced until 1980" (2).

If you have removed any words from the quotation, mark that erasure with ellipses (. . .) to notify readers of the change. **If you have inserted any words into the quotation**, place brackets [] around the insertion to notify readers of those changes. Similarly, if you modify a portion of a word, place that modification in brackets ("**notify[ing] readers of changes" is important**).

End-of-the sentence punctuation goes after the final parenthesis (unless it's a block quotation).

Format any quotation that is longer than four lines in your text as a block quotation. To format a block quote, indent the text of the quotation, do not place quotation marks around the text, and place punctuation at the end of the quote before the parenthetical citation.

Working with Titles and Authors' Names In-Text

Fully capitalize any titles you mention in the body of your paper (except for prepositions, articles, and conjunctions).

Italicize the titles of longer works (books, periodicals, newspapers, etc.) and **put the titles of shorter works in quotations**.

If you include the author's name in your signal phrase, you don't need to repeat it in the parenthetical citation.

Smith notes that "the crab festival began in 1973, but fireworks were not introduced until 1980" (2).

Questions? Ask your consultant!

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