Parenthetical Citation

Parenthetical citation (also known as in-text citation) is necessary to give credit, organize ideas, and provide reference to your works-cited list. Without parenthetical citation, your paper will be difficult to follow and you will be at risk of committing plagiarism. Cite after direct quotes, paraphrased sentences, and any other instance in which you include someone else’s work.

- **For most instances of MLA parenthetical citation**, you will include the author’s name and page number. It will look like this: (Kane 16). Remember, **the sentence does not end until after your citation**, so punctuation (with the exception of question marks or exclamation marks in the quote) goes **after the closing parenthesis**.

- **If you mention the source author’s name in the sentence**, you do not need to put it in the parentheses.

- **If your source has multiple authors**, list them: (Kane, Eilenberger, and Sullivan 32). If there are more than three authors, use the phrase “et al.”: (Kane et al. 50).

- **If your source does not have an author**, use the title instead. It will look something like this: (“I Love to Write” 85).

- **When citing an indirect source** (i.e. a source within a source), use the abbreviated phrase “qtd. in”: (qtd. in Kane 205).

- **If your quote is more than four lines**, put it into a block quote. Indent the entire quote one inch from the left margin and do not surround it with quotation marks. In this case, your period goes **before** the parenthetical citation.

Works Cited

Your works-cited list will help your reader identify, locate, and evaluate your sources. Use hanging indentation for your works-cited list (first line aligned to the left, following lines indented by half an inch). Alphabetize your entries, and do not put extra blank lines between them. See the end of this guide for an example.

You must provide a works-cited list entry for every source you reference, and you can construct each entry by following the guidelines below. Use your judgment when determining what specific information to include; keep your paper’s purpose in mind and use the information **most relevant** to your work. If you do not find a certain piece of information (e.g. an author’s name), you do not need to include it; however, do your best to find and document that information.

For each entry, assemble core elements in this order and follow each with the given punctuation (the entry will always end with a period):

1. Author.
2. Title of the source.
3. Title of the container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.
Ellwood, Alison, and Alex Gibney, directors. *Magic Trip: Ken Kesey’s Search for a Kool Place*. Starring Ken Kesey, Neal Cassady, and The Merry Band of Pranksters, Magnolia Pictures, 2011.


“You Also Have a Pizza.” *Orange Is the New Black*, performance by Taylor Schilling, season 2, episode 6, Netflix, 2014.


**Publication Date:**
If citing a book, use the most recent publication date. For other source-types, note the publication date most relevant to your work and include as much detail as needed to establish the appropriate context.

@TheRealNimoy (Leonard Nimoy). “A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. LLAP.” *Twitter*, 23 Feb. 2015, 2:36 a.m.


**Location:**
Location notes where a source can be found—within a text, on the internet, or a physical place for example. When noting pages, precede a page by p. and a page range by pp. For internet sources, you can include the source’s URL or DOI.


*Note: You can, and should, include any additional information relevant to your use of the source—like original publication date or date of access. Place any optional elements after the core element to which they most relate.*


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