MLA Parenthetical Citation

Parenthetical citation (also known as in-text citation) is necessary to give credit, organize ideas, and provide reference to your Works Cited page. 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 that the sentence does not end until after your citation, and 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.

MLA Works Cited

Your Works Cited page(s) will help your reader identify, locate, and evaluate your sources. Be sure to use hanging indentation for your Works Cited page(s) (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. If you do not find a certain piece of information (e.g., an author’s name or a website version number) you do not need to include it. However, do your best to find and document that information.

On the following pages, you will find several examples of MLA-style citations.

Additional Resources

Purdue Owl
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
Works Cited

An entire book:
Author’s name, last name first. Title of the Book. City of publication: Publisher, year. Medium of publication.


A chapter or a work within a book:
Author’s name, last name first. “Title of the Chapter.” Title of the Book. Ed. Editor’s Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, year. Page range of chapter. Medium of publication.


An article in a scholarly journal:
Author’s name, last name first. “Title of the Article.” Title of the Journal volume number.issue number (year): page range. Medium of publication.


A magazine article:
Author’s name, last name first. “Title of the Article.” Title of the Magazine full date of publication: page range. Print.


An entire website:
Author’s or editor’s name, last name first. Name of Site. Version number. Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication. Date of access.


A page on a website:
Author’s name, last name first. “Name of Page.” Name of Site. Version number. Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication. Date of access.


An e-mail:
Author’s name, last name first. “Subject header of e-mail.” Message to recipient’s name. Full date of message. Medium of delivery.

Kane, Emily. “Writing Center for the Spring Semester.” Message to Elizabeth Brewer. 23 November 2015. E-mail.
An image from the internet:
Artist’s name, last name first. Name of the Work of Art. Year of
creation. Name of the Museum, City. Name of the Website.
Medium of publication. Date of access.


A tweet:
Author’s name, last name first (twitter handle). “The entirety of
the tweet.” Date of posting, time of posting. Tweet.

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

Winokur, John (AdviceToWriters). “Everything is writable about if
you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to
improvise. SYLVIA PLATH #amwriting.” 6 Dec. 2015, 4:00
p.m. Tweet.

An interview:
Interviewee’s name, last name first. Personal interview or
telephone interview. Date of interview.

Kane, Emily. Personal interview. 4 February 2015.

A film:
Name of Film. Dir. Director’s name. Perf. Performers’ names.
Producer, year. Film.

Cinema, 2001. Film.

A recorded song:
Performer’s name, last name first. “Title of Piece.” Title of Album.
Record Label, year. Medium.


Lekman, Jens. “Kanske Ar Jag Kar I Dig.” *Night Falls Over