

CCSU Writing Center
Citation Guides
MLA 8th Edition

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.**

Author:

Identify the person or group that produced the source as relevant to your own text. When this is not the content's creator, follow the name with a comma and descriptive label (e.g. translator or performer).

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.
Laurie, Hugh. *The Gun Seller*. Washington Square Press, 1996.

Title of source:

Enter the entire title as it appears in the source; use standard capitalization, and place a colon between the title and a subtitle. For a source contained within a larger work (e.g. a poem in a collection), surround the title with quotation marks. If the source is a self-contained work or normally appears independently, italicize the title. For an untitled source, use an appropriate, generic description (e.g. Interview) or a short message in its entirety (e.g. a tweet).

Fulton, Laurie Watkins. "Reading Around Jake's Narration: Brett Ashley and *The Sun Also Rises*." *Hemingway Review*, vol. 24, no.1, 2004, pp. 61-80.
Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*. Theatre Communications Group, 1995.
Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. *The Necessary Shakespeare*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2009, pp. 464-505.

Title of container:

The container refers to any larger whole within which the source may appear—a book of collected works or a journal, for example. When you access a source from nested containers (e.g. an article within a journal within a database), include core elements 3-9 for each.

Faulkner, William. Interview by Jean Stein Vanden Heuvel. *Lion in the Garden: Interviews with William Faulkner 1926-1962*, Random House, 1968, pp. 237-256.
Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/41403188.

Other contributors:

Include any contributors whose role relates to your work or helps identify the source, and precede each with a description of that role.

Celan, Paul. "Speak, You Also." *Poems of Paul Celan*, translated by Michael Hamburger, Persea Books, 2002, p. 69.
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. Directed by Peter Jackson, performance by Elijah Wood, New Line Cinema, 2001.

Version:

Note the source's specific version or edition when the work you reference exists in more than one form.

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.
Ginsberg, Allen. "Kaddish." *Kaddish and Other Poems 1958-1960*, expanded 50th anniversary ed., City Light Books, 2010, pp. 7-36.

Number:

Include any identifying numbers (e.g. volume or issue) for works of a numbered sequence.

Jenkins, Candice M. "Introduction: 'Reading' Hip-Hop Discourse in the Twenty-First Century." *African American Review*, vol. 46, no.1, 2013, pp. 1-8.
"You Also Have a Pizza." *Orange Is the New Black*, performance by Taylor Schilling, season 2, episode 6, Netflix, 2014.

Publisher:

The publisher refers to the primary organization that produced or released the source. If a source has more than one, equally responsible publisher, note them all, and separate each with a forward slash.

Bloom, Howard. "Freud: Frontier Concepts, Jewishness, and Interpretation." *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*, Johns Hopkins UP, 1995, pp. 113-27.

Renoir, Pierre-Auguste. *The Seine at Chatou*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, www.mfa.org/collections/object/the-seine-at-chatou-31801.

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.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. 2nd ed., Broadview Press, 2004.

Sifton, Sam. “Feast in the Heart of Texas.” *The New York Times Magazine*, 6 Dec. 2015, pp. 52-57.

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.

Van Gogh, Vincent. *Starry Night*. 1889, The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Wuornos, Susan Schulz. “An Ode to the Murph Dawg.” *Cat Women: Female Writers on Their Feline Friends*, Seal Press, 2007, pp. 157-65.

*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.

Works Cited

@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.

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

Bloom, Howard. “Freud: Frontier Concepts, Jewishness, and

Interpretation.” *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*, Johns

Hopkins UP, 1995, pp. 113-27.

Celan, Paul. “Speak, You Also.” *Poems of Paul Celan*, translated by

Michael Hamburger, Persea Books, 2002, p. 69.

Laurie, Hugh. *The Gun Seller*. Washington Square Press, 1996.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. Directed by Peter

Jackson, performance by Elijah Wood, New Line Cinema,

2001.

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. *The Necessary Shakespeare*.

3rd ed., Pearson, 2009, pp. 464-505.

Sifton, Sam. “Feast in the Heart of Texas.” *The New York Times*

Magazine, 6 Dec. 2015, pp. 52-57.

“You Also Have a Pizza.” *Orange Is the New Black*, performance by

Taylor Schilling, season 2, episode 6, Netflix, 2014.

