

# MLA Citation Guide – How to cite a source using parenthesis ( )

Parenthetical / in-text citations are used to acknowledge which parts of a paper reference particular sources.

**Citations are needed to indicate paraphrasing, direct quotations, showing that an idea is not your own, or that information was obtained from another source other than yourself.** If you do not cite, you are plagiarizing, which is a serious offence.

- Generally, you want to provide the **last name of the author** and the **specific page numbers** of the source. Use no punctuation in the parenthesis. *E.g.*, This point has already been argued (Smith 23).
  - If you provide the author's name in your text only provide the page numbers in your citation. *E.g.*, Smith argues this point (12).
  - Place the parenthetical citation where there is a pause in the sentence – normally before the end of a sentence or a comma.
- If a quotation is **more than 4 lines** when typed, begin the quotation on a new line that is **indented 2.5cm** (1 inch). **DO NOT USE QUOTATION MARKS**. The period is placed **before** the parenthetical citations.

Example:

At the conclusion of My Side of the Mountain, Sam realized how much he had missed his family:

Then I jumped in the air and laughed for joy. I recognized my four year-old brother's pleasure song. The family! Dad had brought the family! Every one of them. I ran, twisting, and turning through the trees like a Cooper's hawk, and occasionally riding a free fifty feet downhill on an aspen sapling. Dad gave me a resounding slap, and Mother hugged me until she cried. I led them proudly up the mountain. (George 175)

- **Multiple works by the same author:** put a comma after the author's last name and add the title (in a full or shortened version if it is long) and the page reference. (Atwood, Handmaid's Tale 23)
- If you use **sources with the same author surname**, then include a first name initial. If they have the same initials, use their full names.
- **Sources with 2-3 authors:** include their last names in the order they appear on the source. (Smith, Jones, and Turner 24).
- **More than 3 authors:** cite the first author followed by "et al." (Smith et al. 43)
- **Citing sources without an author** (e.g., websites): refer to the name of the source in place of the author. Shorten or abbreviate the name but ensure the reader can easily identify it in your Works Cited list. Punctuate with quotations or underlines as you would in the Works Cited form (a book is underlined, and an article is in quotes). **Citation example:** ("Acquiring a Zebra") **Works Cited:**

"Acquiring a Zebra." Herds of Information About Zebras. 29 Apr 2009 <<http://alumnus.caltech.edu/~kantner/zebras/.zebras.html>>.

# MLA Citation Guide – Creating a Works Cited list

- See the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2003 for complete information.
- At the end of your paper, you will list all your sources on a separate page entitled **WORKS CITED**.
- The Works Cited list is arranged **ALPHABETICALLY** by the author's last name. If there is no author, use the title of the source.
- Double space your list. If a citation runs more than one line, the second line and subsequent lines are indented by 1.25 cm (0.5 inches).

**Each type of source has to be cited in a specific way. Use the templates below to cite your sources correctly.**

## Book – Single Author:

Last name, First M. Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

*Example:*

Nylund, Eric. Halo The Fall of Reach. New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2001.

## Book – Two Authors:

Last name, First M., and First M Last name . Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

## Book – Multiple Authors (three or more):

Last name, First M., et al. Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

## Book – Corporate Author:

Corporation. Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

- A 'corporate author' may be a commission, an association, a committee or any other group whose individual members are not identified.
- If the corporate author's name begins with an articles such as *The*, *A* or *An*, omit the article in the citation.

## Book – No author:

Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

- In the Works Cited list, alphabetize anonymous works by title (disregard articles such as *The* and *A*).

## Book Chapters and Works in Anthologies:

Book Editor

Last name, First M. "Section Title." Book Title/Anthology Title. Ed. First M. Last name. Edition. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

# of Edition. # of volumes.

## Encyclopedia / Dictionary:

Last name, First M. "Article Title." Encyclopedia Name. ed. vols. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

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**Indirect Source:**

Last name, First M. Book Title. City Published: Publisher, Year Published.

- Cite the indirect source, i.e., the one you have in hand, and insert a footnote to cite the original source<sup>1</sup>.
- The **in-text citation** should look like this: (qtd. in Name 432, 450). 'qtd.' stands for 'quoted', and 'Name' is your source.

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**Journal (Print):**

Last name, First M. "Article." Journal Name Volume (Year): Page(s).

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**Journal (Online):**

Last name, First M. "Article." Journal Name Volume. Issue (Year): Page(s). Database. Service. Library, <sup>Retrieval Date</sup> Day Month Year.

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**Magazine:**

Last name, First M. "Article Title." Magazine Day Month Year: Page(s).

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**Newspaper (Print):**

Last name, First M. "Article Name." Newspaper Day Month Year: Page(s).

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**Newspaper (Online):**

Last name, First M. "Article Name." Newspaper Day Month Year: Page(s). <sup>Retrieval Date</sup> Database. Service. Library, Day Month Year.

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**Website:**

Last name, First M. "Website Article." <sup>Date electronically published</sup> Day Month Year. Website Name. <sup>Retrieval Date</sup> Day Month Year <URL>.

- Include the first date of publication (if it is indicated on the page), then the date of access.
- If no author is listed, start with the title of the document.
- If the URL of the exact document is too long and complicated, give instead the URL of the site's search page.

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<sup>1</sup> See Last name, Book Title (Publisher, Date) p, qtd in Name 432, 450.