

In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Documentation)

- MLA Style requires brief citation information to be included in the text of the paper OR in parentheses following a quotation, summary, or paraphrase. Complete bibliographical information is given only once, in the bibliography called "Works Cited" on a separate page, at the end of the paper. (*MLA Handbook* 54-58)
- Please note: In-text citations must match the initial element of the item in the "Works Cited" list.

The table below gives examples of the most common in-text citations:

Situation	Examples of text and in-text citations
Author is quoted or paraphrased <u>but not named in the text</u> .	It may be true that "in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance . . ." (Robertson 136).
Author is quoted or paraphrased and <u>is named in the text</u> .	Sigmund Freud states that a "dream is a fulfillment of a wish" (154). Smith developed the argument in his 1997 book (185-91).
Author is quoted or paraphrased and <u>is named in the text</u> . Quoted work has <u>no</u> page numbers.	Chan considers the same topic in the context of Hong Kong cinema. <i>(no parenthetical citation required)</i> Works Cited Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." <i>Postmodern Culture</i> , vol. 10, no.3, 2000. <i>Project Muse</i> , doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.
Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased.	Modern researchers now accept the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, <i>Sleep</i> 184). But investigation has shown that young children's dreams are in general "rather simple and unemotional" (Foulkes, "Dreams" 78)
A work with two or three authors is quoted or paraphrased.	For all their efforts to generalize about child behavior, psychologists recognize that "no two children are exactly alike" (Gesell and Ilg 68).
A work with more than three authors is quoted or paraphrased.	"The research . . . challenges the notions of 'readiness' that prevailed in education for much of the 20th century" (Whitmore et al. 298).

	<p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>Whitmore, Kathryn F., et al. "Critical Lessons from the Transactional Perspective on Early Literacy Research." <i>Journal of Early Childhood Literacy</i>, vol. 4, no. 3, 2004, pp. 291-325. <i>Sage Journals Online</i>, doi:10.1177/1468798404047291.</p>
A work without an author (listed by title) is quoted or paraphrased.	<p>A <i>New York Times</i> editorial called Ralph Ellison "a writer of universal reach" ("Death").</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>"Death of a Writer." Editorial. <i>New York Times</i>, late ed., 20 Apr. 1994, p. A18.</p>
A work authored and published by the same agency or corporation is quoted or paraphrased. (* <i>Works Cited</i> " entry will be by title.)	<p>The State Department's travel advisory "strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State" ("Tips").</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>"Tips for Traveling Abroad." <i>Travel.state.gov</i>, United States, Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, 2007, travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html.</p>
A work with a corporate author that is not the same as the publisher is quoted or paraphrased. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> 3.1.2)	<p>In 1988 a federal report observed that "current high level of attention to child care is directly attributable to the new workforce trends" (United States, Dept. of Labor 147).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p>In a 1988 report, the United States Department of Labor observed that "current high level of attention to child care is directly attributable to the new workforce trends" (147).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>United States, Department of Labor. <i>Child Care: A Workforce Issue</i>. Government Printing Office, 1988.</p> <p><i>(NOTE: All parts of the corporate author should appear in the in-text citation but, to avoid a very long in-text citation, use standard abbreviations or use the full name of the agency or corporation in the text. Do not use abbreviations in the "Works Cited" list.</i></p>
A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased.	<p>In an interview with Stephanie Arkin, I found that she and her friends "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to do anything. They just hang around." (<i>no parenthetical citation required</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p>

	<p>Most older people seem to "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to <i>do</i> anything. They just hang around" (Arkin).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arkin, Stephanie. Personal interview. 22 July 2007.</p>
<p>A poem is quoted.</p>	<p>In Robert Frost's poem "The Death of the Hired Man," one character describes home as "the place where, when you have to go there / They have to let you in" (lines 118-19).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Frost, Robert. "The Death of the Hired Man," <i>The Poetry of Robert Frost: The Collected Poems</i>, edited by Edward Connery Lathem, Henry Holt, 1979, pp. 34-39.</p>
<p>A play with act, scene, and line numbers is quoted</p>	<p>Shakespeare's famous metaphor on the meaning of life appears in the last act of <i>Macbeth</i>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing. (5.5.23-28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shakespeare, William. <i>Macbeth: Authoritative Text, Sources and Contexts, Criticism</i>. Edited by Robert S. Miola, Norton, 2004. Norton Critical Editions.</p> <p><i>(NOTE: A quotation of more than four lines, whether poetry or prose, is indented one inch from left margin, has no quotation marks, and has parenthetical citation after the last period.)</i></p>
<p>Quoting an indirect source (a quoted quote)</p>	<p>The critic Susan Aikens has argued on behalf of what she calls "canonical multiplicity" (qtd. in Mayers 677).</p> <p><i>(NOTE: The "Works Cited" list will include an entry for Mayers but not for Aikens.)</i></p>