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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Examples of text and in-text citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author is quoted or paraphrased but not named in the text.</td>
<td>It may be true that &quot;in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance . . .&quot; (Robertson 136).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author is quoted or paraphrased and is named in the text.</td>
<td>Sigmund Freud states that a &quot;dream is a fulfillment of a wish&quot; (154). Smith developed the argument in his 1997 book (185-91).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author is quoted or paraphrased and is named in the text.</td>
<td>Chan considers the same topic in the context of Hong Kong cinema. (no parenthetical citation required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>Modern researchers now accept the principle that dreams express &quot;profound aspects of personality&quot; (Foulkes, Sleep 184). But investigation has shown that young children's dreams are in general &quot;rather simple and unemotional&quot; (Foulkes, &quot;Dreams&quot; 78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A work with two or three authors is quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>For all their efforts to generalize about child behavior, psychologists recognize that &quot;no two children are exactly alike&quot; (Gesell and Ilg 68).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A work with more than three authors is quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>&quot;The research . . . challenges the notions of 'readiness' that prevailed in education for much of the 20th century&quot; (Whitmore et al. 298).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| A work without an author (listed by title) is quoted or paraphrased. | A *New York Times* editorial called Ralph Ellison "a writer of universal reach" ("Death").

**Works Cited**


| A work authored and published by the same agency or corporation is quoted or paraphrased. ("Works Cited" entry will be by title.) | The State Department's travel advisory "strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State" ("Tips").

**Works Cited**


| A work with a corporate author that is not the same as the publisher is quoted or paraphrased. (*MLA Handbook 3.1.2*) | 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).

or

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).

**Works Cited**


| A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased. | 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." (no parenthetical citation required) |

or |
Most older people seem to "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to do anything. They just hang around" (Arkin).

**Works Cited**


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A poem is quoted.

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).

**Works Cited**


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A play with act, scene, and line numbers is quoted

Shakespeare’s famous metaphor on the meaning of life appears in the last act of *Macbeth*:

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)

**Works Cited**


*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.*

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Quoting an indirect source (a quoted quote)

The critic Susan Aikens has argued on behalf of what she calls "canonical multiplicity" (qtd. in Mayers 677).

*NOTE: The "Works Cited" list will include an entry for Mayers but not for Aikens.*)