

IN-TEXT (PARENTHETICAL) CITATIONS

MLA style cites sources within the text of the paper by giving minimal identifying information in parentheses following a quotation, summary, or paraphrase.

Complete bibliographical information is given only once, on a separate page at the end of the paper, in a list called "Work Cited" (for a single item) or "Works Cited (for more than one item).

In-text citations must match the initial element of the item in the "Work(s) Cited" list.

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

Situation	Examples of Text, In-text Citations, and Work(s) Cited
Author is quoted or paraphrased but not named in the text	<p>It may be true that "in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (Robertson 136).</p> <p>This point has already been argued (Smith 2: 151)</p> <p>Note: <i>Second example is taken from vol. 2 of a multivolume work.</i></p>
Author is quoted or paraphrased and is named in the text.	<p>Sigmund Freud states that a "dream is a fulfillment of a wish" (154).</p> <p>Smith developed the argument in his 1997 book (185-91).</p>
Author is quoted or paraphrased and is named in the text. Quoted work has no page numbers.	<p>Chan considers the same topic in the context of Hong Kong cinema.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work Cited</p> <p>Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." <i>Postmodern Culture</i>, vol. 10, no.3, 2000. <i>Project Muse</i>, https://doi.org/10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.</p> <p>Note: <i>Sentence requires no parenthetical citation because author's name is in the text and article has no page numbers.</i></p>
Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased.	<p>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)</p>
A work with two authors is quoted or paraphrased.	<p>For all their efforts to generalize about child behavior, psychologists recognize that "no two children are exactly alike" (Gesell and Ilg 68).</p>
A work with more than two authors is quoted or paraphrased.	<p>"The research . . . challenges the notions of 'readiness' that prevailed in education for much of the 20th century" (Whitmore et al. 298).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work 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>, https://doi.org/10.1177/1468798404047291.</p>

Situation	Examples of Text, In-text Citations, and Work(s) Cited
<p>A work with a corporate author that is not the same as the publisher is quoted or paraphrased.</p>	<p>In 1988, a federal report observed that the “current high level of attention to health care is directly attributable to the new workforce trends” (United States, Department of Labor 147). <i>or</i> In a 1988 report, the United States Department of Labor observed that the “current high level of attention to health care is directly attributable to the new workforce trends” (147).</p> <p>The State Department's travel advisory "strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State" (U.S. Dept. of State. Bureau). <i>or</i> The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs "strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State." (<i>no parenthetical citation required</i>)</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>United States, Dept. of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs. "Tips for Traveling Abroad." <i>Travel.state.gov.</i>, 2007, travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html.</p> <p>Note: <i>In in-text citations, do not abbreviate names of corporate authors [Department of Labor example above], except to avoid very long in-text citations [Dept. of State example above]. Another way to avoid a very long in--text citation is to use the full name of the agency or corporation in the text [both alternate examples above].)</i></p>
<p>A work authored <u>and</u> published by the same corporate author is quoted or paraphrased.</p> <p>Note: <i>Enter author/publisher as publisher only and “Work Cited” will be by title.</i></p>	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains that “[i]nfluenza is one of the world’s greatest infectious disease challenges. But . . . seasonal flu and pandemic flu are not the same” (“About”).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work Cited</p> <p>“About Pandemic Influenza.” United States, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <i>CDC.gov.</i>, 27 Mar. 2024, www.cdc.gov/pandemic-flu/basics/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/index.html.</p>
<p>A work without an author is quoted or paraphrased.</p> <p>Note: <i>Enter the item by title.</i></p>	<p>A <i>New York Times</i> editorial called Ralph Ellison "a writer of universal reach" ("Death").</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work Cited</p> <p>"Death of a Writer." <i>New York Times</i>, late ed., 20 Apr. 1994, p. A18. Editorial.</p>

Situation	Examples of Text, In-text Citations, and Work(s) Cited
<p>A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased.</p>	<p>In an interview with Stephanie Arkin, I found that she and her friends "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to <i>do</i> anything. They just hang around." (<i>no parenthetical citation required</i>) <i>or</i> 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;">Work 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;">Work 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>Note: <i>A quotation of more than four lines, whether poetry or prose, is indented one inch from the left margin, has no quotation marks, and has parenthetical citation after the last period.</i></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;">Work Cited</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shakespeare, William. <i>Macbeth: An Authoritative Text, Sources and Contexts, Criticism</i>. Edited by Robert S. Miola, Norton Critical Edition, W. W. Norton, 2003.</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>Note: <i>The "Works Cited" list will include an entry for Mayers but not for Aikens.</i></p>