

MLA IN-TEXT CITATIONS

A research paper requires two different forms of documentation: a **Works Cited** list, which is placed at the end of the paper and **in-text citations** (parenthetical), which are embedded within the text of the paper. In both cases, you must give the source of everything that you borrow: direct quotations, passages, information and/or ideas.

Each in-text citation needs to point specifically to the detailed source information, which is listed on the **Works Cited** page.

In most cases, the author's last name and the page number are enough to identify the source, but **the chart below shows how to do in-text citations for specific types of sources.**

Please note that the period, indicating the end of the sentence, is put **AFTER** the bracket, as shown in the example below.

Example: The snow fell "like gobbets of soap froth" (Laurence 76).

SOURCE	PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE
<p>BOOK WITH A SINGLE AUTHOR The page number(s) of your source should always be listed. The author's name may be used in the sentence, or included in the parenthetical reference. If you are only citing one text for the entire essay, include the author's name in the parenthetical citation the first time only.</p>	(89) or (Atwood 57)
<p>SAME AUTHOR WITH TWO OR MORE BOOKS If there are references to two or more works by the same author, add the title, shortened or in full, and italicized, between the author's last name and the page reference. You may choose to include the author's name and/or the name of the work in your sentence, in which case, only the page number would be in brackets.</p>	(Laurence, <i>Jest</i> 182) (note the comma placement)
<p>TWO OR THREE AUTHORS</p>	(Fischer, Hunter, and White 93)
<p>MORE THAN THREE AUTHORS First author's last name, followed by et al.</p>	(Edens et al. 98)
<p>CORPORATE AUTHOR Use the name of the corporation, shortened or in full, followed by a page reference, or include the name in the text.</p>	(Canadian Institute for Health Information 95-98)
<p>WORK LISTED BY TITLE ONLY If a work is listed in the Works Cited by title, use this title, or a shortened version, in your parenthetical reference. The shortened version must begin with the word that appears first in the Works Cited entry. If two or more of these non-authored works have the same title, distinguish them by adding a fact or date found in the Works Cited entry.</p>	<p>("Arctic Fox," <i>Hinterland</i>) ("Arctic Fox," <i>Arctic</i>)</p>
<p>AN ENTIRE WORK WITH NO PAGE NUMBERS (print, non-print, film, video – eg. YouTube, tv, performance, online image or web resource) You can include the name of the person (author, editor, director, performer, corporate author) in the text, or you can indicate the name in brackets after the sentence. This is the same name that begins the Works Cited entry.</p>	<p>Cressman's <i>Trends of Tomorrow</i> discusses this phenomenon. This point has already been argued (Hunt).</p>
<p>ELECTRONIC SOURCES (e.g. websites) Treat them like print texts. The only difference is the lack of page numbers provided, although there are exceptions to this (PDF format, numbered paragraphs). If there are numbered paragraphs, use the abbreviation par. or pars. If you include the author's name in this reference, place a comma after the name. Do not count unnumbered paragraphs.</p>	<p>(Blatz) (par. 40) or (Chan, par. 40)</p>
<p>CITING INDIRECT SOURCES If you quote or paraphrase from a secondhand source, put the abbreviation <i>qtd. in</i> ("quoted in") before the indirect source you cite.</p>	Samuel Johnson admitted that Frank McAllister was an "exceptional man" (<i>qtd. in</i> Burke 348).
<p>SHAKESPEARE (AND OTHER DRAMATIC WORKS) Act, scene and line numbers are separated only by a period. Indicate the name of the play in your parenthetical citation unless you have already identified it in your sentence. You only need to identify it once in your documentation. If quoting from more than one play in your paper, then the title of the play must be used each time a different play is discussed.</p>	<p>(2.4.67-68) (<i>Hamlet</i> 2.4.67-68)</p>
<p>POETRY Line numbers must be listed. The author's name may be used in the sentence, or included in the parenthetical reference.</p>	(52) or (Wordsworth 52-57)