

In-Text Parenthetical Citations *MLA Style*

In-text parenthetical citation indicates to the readers not only what sources author used in writing the paper but also exactly what parts of the sources author incorporated in the body of the paper. Referring the readers of the paper directly to the works cited page where readers can learn more about the source itself:

Example:

“Asante beliefs about spirits and beliefs about witchcraft are extensive, complex, and interconnected” (Appiah 35).

Work cited:

Appiah, Anthony. *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2006. Print.

The parenthetical reference “(Appiah 35)” indicates that the quotation come from page 35 of work by Appiah. The writer included the name Appiah in parenthetical citation to refer the readers to Appiah in the alphabetical list of works cited page.

If a writer includes an author’s name in a sentence, writer need not repeat the name in the parenthetical page citation. The following *example* indicates the author’s name (Scales) is used in the text introducing the source material with the page number in parenthesis (123) at the end of the statement.

Example:

Scales reported that “Key to Omega Diet are the omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, both of which are needed to stay healthy” (123).

Work cited:

Scales, Mary Josephine. *Diets in a Nutshell: a definitive guide on diets from A to Z*. Clifton: Apex Publishers, 2005. Print.

Unknown Author:

Use the complete title in a single phrase or use a short form of the title in parentheses. Title of books need to be *Italic* and titles of the articles need to be put in “quotation” mark.

Example:

“Babies looked much longer in the direction from which the sounds of a novel sequence came” (“Behavior” 2).

“He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants” (*Holy Bible* 483).

Work cited:

“Behavior.” *Science News* 155.3(1999):2. Print.

The Holy Bible: Old and New Testaments. Philadelphia: The National Bible Press, 1975. Print.

Electronic Resources:

These resources are cited in the typical author-page format. If the online resources do not have page number, it is best to avoid using parenthetical citations, instead incorporate author’s name or the title of the electronic sources in the works and include other location information such as screen, section and paragraph numbers:

Example:

“...cyber-extortion is growing in frequency and intensity, many victims are hesitant to contact the authorities for fear that bad publicity may damage their reputation” (Gow, par 2).

Work cited:

Gow, Brad. “The Growing Threat of Cyber-extortion (Technology).” *Risk Management* 52.4 (April 2005):1. Biography Resource Center. Web. 16 Nov. 2007.

Note:

Printouts from electronic sources show page numbers but printers usually do not provide the same page numbers in the original documents. General recommendation in this case is treating such sources as unknown page numbers.

Multivolume Works:

Using one volume from a multivolume works, indicate the specific volume number after author's name with a colon (:) and page number in the parenthetical citation.

Example:

“Magic in early Europe was integral to the various religious systems that prevailed throughout that continent and survived into the Middle Ages as witchcraft” (Gordon 2:957).

Work cited:

Gordon, J. Melton ed. *Encyclopedia of Parapsychology*. 2 vols. New York: Gale Group, 2001. Print.

This guide has been developed to assist you with MLA in-text parenthetical citation. Your research should not be limited to the scope of this guide. It is intended to be a starting point and not meant to be a comprehensive resource. For further information, check out the following MLA Publication:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th. ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

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