

## Quick Guide to MLA In-text Citations

### Spartanburg Community College Library

If you quote, paraphrase or summarize a source in your paper, it needs to be cited in the text.

An in-text citation contains just enough information to help the reader find the source on the Works Cited page. A typical in-text citation will include what comes first on the Works Cited page such as author or title, followed by exact page number of the information used.

**Step 1.** Create a Works Cited entry for each source you will use in your paper.

**Step 2.** Use the chart below to help you create in-text citations.

**Step 3.** Place citations in the text of your paper at the end of the sentence or section where the information was used.

Type	In-Text Citation	Example
Typical in-text citation with 1 author and page number(s)	Place the author's last name and page number in parenthesis. Always place the period outside the parenthesis.	(Hennessy 81). or (Hennessy 81-82).
No page numbers	If a source has no page numbers, omit the page number. Keep in mind, most internet sources do not include pages.	("Everyday Victims") (Jones)
No author / Anonymous author	If the source has no author, your in-text citation will use the title of the source that starts your works cited entry. The title may appear in the sentence itself or, abbreviated, before the page number in parenthesis. Follow the same format as the Works Cited entry; i.e. if the title is in quotes or italics in the Works Cited entry, then it should match – quotes or italics – in the in-text entry. Exclude any initial article in the title such as <i>a</i> , <i>an</i> , <i>the</i> . Titles can be abbreviated as long as it's clear which title on the Works Cited page you're referring to.	("Noon" 508) or ( <i>Faulkner's Novels</i> 25)
2 authors	If the entry on the Works Cited page begins with the names of two authors, include both last names in the in-text citation, connected by <i>and</i> .	(Dorris and Erdrich 23)
3 or more authors	If the source has three or more authors, include the first author's last name followed by <i>et al.</i>	(Burdick et al. 42)
Author mentioned in the sentence	If author is mentioned in the sentence, include only the page number(s) in parenthesis. Do not repeat the author's name.	Hennessy tells how Auden's writing was popular with contemporary readers and critics (81).
Authors with the same last name	If you use works by more than one author with the same last name, add the author's first initial. If the first initial is shared too, include the authors' full first name.	(N. Baron 194) and (S. Baron 26)
Sources by same author	If using two or more sources by the same author include a short abbreviated form of the source's title, separate by a comma.	(Baron, "Redefining" 4) (Baron, "Information" 9)
Corporate author	Abbreviate terms that are commonly abbreviated, such as <i>Department</i> (Dept.). If the corporate author is identified on the Works Cited page by the names of administrative units separated by commas, give all the names in the in-text citation (i.e. United States, Dept. of Labor).	(United States, Dept. of Labor 147)
Paragraph numbers	If your source uses paragraph, section or chapter numbers rather than page numbers – give the relevant number or numbers, preceded by the appropriate label ( <i>par.</i> , <i>pars.</i> , <i>sec.</i> , <i>secs.</i> , <i>ch.</i> , or <i>chs</i> ). Place a comma after the author's name.	(Jones, par. 6) or (Jones, par. 6-10)
Bible	See <i>MLA Handbook</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. pp. 97-99, 118, 122-23	(1 Chron. 21.8)
Indirect quotes	See <i>MLA Handbook</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. p. 124	(qtd. in Boswell 450)
Shakespeare	See <i>MLA Handbook</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. pp. 100-01, 118, 121-22	( <i>Mac.</i> 1.5.17)
Recordings	See <i>MLA Handbook</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. p. 57	("Buffy" 00:03:16-17)
Poems / Plays	See <i>MLA Handbook</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> ed. p. 57, 118, 121	See <i>MLA Handbook</i>

Note: This is just a brief overview. For more information, please see the *MLA Handbook*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. pp. 54-58 and 116-27