

MLA PARENTHETICAL CITATION

Instead, each time you use a paraphrase, summary, or quotation, include a citation in parentheses. The citation should also match a source listed on the Works Cited page. This handout lists some of the most common ways to cite a source in your paper.

NOTE: When no author is named in the work, substitute the title of the work in the parenthesis. Be sure to italicize or enclose the title in quotations marks as appropriate.

Using Author Name

Author's name mentioned in text

Erich Fromm, noted psychologist, believes that most people are more concerned about receiving love than giving it (64).

According to Daniel Boorstin, Harvard professor, "with dizzying speed television has democratized experience" (102).

In his *Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin states that he prepared a list of thirteen virtues (135-37).

Author's name not mentioned in text

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras (Marcuse 197). It may be true that "in the appreciation of medieval art, the attitude of the observer is of primary importance..." (Robertson 136).

This point has been argued before (Frye 178-85)

More than one work by the same author(s)

Jane Westin stated that "Maybe man would not overrun this planet, but his pet poodles and Siamese cats might" (Pethood 6). She calculated that that there are 50 million homeless animals in the U.S. ("Planning" 10).

Boroff finds Stevens "dominated by two powerful and contending temperamental strains" (*Wallace Stevens* 2).

To Will and Ariel Durant, creative men and women make "history forgivable by enriching our heritage and our lives" (*Dual Autobiography* 406).

Revised by Laura Lenius

With information borrowed and modified from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th Ed.

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Two authors with the same last name

The general's brother did not arrive until the following year (Frederick Johnson 235).

The authenticity of the document, however, has been questioned (Edwin Johnson 15).

Two or three authors of a single source

The Education Commission reports twenty problems of new teachers (Smith and Brown 61).

Others hold an opposite point of view (e.g., Wellek and Warren 310-15).

"Opinion leaders" influence other people in an organization because they are respected, not because they hold high positions (Gortner, Mahler, and Nicholson 175).

Four or more authors

Others have suggested modern theories concerning history (Potter et al. 26).

Multivolume Works:

Citing an entire volume of a multivolume work

Between the years 1945 and 1972, the political party system in the United States underwent profound changes (Schlesinger, vol. 4).

Modern readers may be mystified by the range of classical allusions in the *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* (Browne, vol. 2).

Using part of one volume of a multivolume work

Only Daiches has observed this relationship (2:776-77).

Source without page numbers

Electronic sources (e.g., web pages, blogs, wikis) seldom have page numbers. The following examples cover the most instances of web sources, but not all instances.

Citing a whole work

"The dangers of smoking have outweighed any potential advantages and should be banned on campus" (Johnson).

Inhaling tobacco over a course of only a few years has been shown to decrease a person's life span (*Health*).

Citing part of a work

Author IS named in your text:

Johnson argued, "The dangers of smoking have outweighed any potential advantages and should be banned on campus" (par. 10)

Jones reports that the students on campus have voted and the decision is still undecided. (Sec. 12).

Author is NOT named in your text:

Some argue that "The dangers of smoking have outweighed any potential advantages and should be banned on campus" (Johnson, par. 10)

The students on campus have voted and the decision is still undecided. (Jones, Sec. 12).

Indirect source

An indirect source citation occurs when one author's work is quoted in another author's work.

In the book, *Bug's Life*, Jones argues that, "mosquitoes kill more people a year than any other insect" (qtd. in Klein 49).