

A GUIDE TO MLA IN-TEXT CITATIONS

CORE ELEMENTS (BASE FORMAT)

(

Author’s Last Name

Page Number(s)

) .

In MLA Style, referring to the works of others in your text is done using **parenthetical citations**. This method involves providing relevant source information in parentheses whenever a sentence uses a **quotation** or **paraphrase**. Usually, the simplest way to do this is to put all of the source information in parentheses at the end of the sentence (just before the period). However, there are situations where it makes sense to put the parenthetical elsewhere in the sentence, or even to leave information out.

CITING SITUATION

One Author

is mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Media." <i>PMLA</i> , vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.	➡	According to Naomi Baron , reading is "just half of literacy. The other half is writing" (194) . One might even suggest that reading is never complete without writing.

One Author

is not mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Media." <i>PMLA</i> , vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.	➡	Reading is "just half of literacy. The other half is writing" (Baron 194) . One might even suggest that reading is never compete without writing.

Two Authors

is mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. <i>The Crown of Columbus</i> . Harper Collins Publishers, 1999.	➡	Dorris and Erdrich argue that one should read a text for what is says on its surface, rather than looking for some hidden meaning (9) .

Two Authors

is not mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. <i>The Crown of Columbus</i> . Harper Collins Publishers, 1999.	➡	The authors claim that surface reading looks at what is "evident, perceptible, apprehensible in texts" (Dorris and Erdrich 9) .

3+ Authors

is mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Rosenburg, Frances, et al. <i>Writing New Media</i> . Utah State UP, 2004.	➡	Rosenburg et al. elaborate on how "child psychology is not a new field; it is a difficult one due to the nature of the subjects" (14) .

3+ Authors

is not mentioned in sentence.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
Rosenburg, Frances, et al. <i>Writing New Media</i> . Utah State UP, 2004.	➡	"Child psychology is not a new field; but it is a difficult one due to the nature of the subjects" (Rosenburg et al. 14) .

No Author

Use first few words from title of source.

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
"Steroid Induced Spinal Epidural Lipomatosis." <i>Journal of Clinical & Diagnostic Research</i> , vol. 14, no. 1, Jan. 2020, pp. 5-7.	➡	Random testing for use of steroids by athletes is facing strong opposition by owners ("Steroids" 22) .

No Page Number

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"Steroid Induced Spinal Epidural Lipomatosis." <i>Journal of Clinical & Diagnostic Research</i> , vol. 14, no. 1, Jan. 2020, pp. 5-7.	➡	Random testing for use of steroids by athletes is facing strong opposition by owners ("Steroids") .

More than 2 Sources

Separate sources using a semicolon (;).

Works Cited Listing		In-text Citation
"Art Nonsense and Science." <i>Biologist</i> , vol. 64, no. 6, Dec. 2017, pp. 22-54. Parker, John D. "Antique Art in a Computer Database." <i>World Monitor</i> , vol. 5, no. 11, Nov. 1992, pp. 1-7.	➡	There are negative implications to computerizing commercial art ("Art Nonsense" 43; Parker 2) .