In-Text Citation Help (MLA 9ᵗʰ Edition)

In Parenthetical

In basic parenthetical citations, a writer will include the author's last name and page number in the in-text citation, with no punctuation (Gonzales 77). Parenthetical citations in MLA format **do not** include the year of publication, p. or pp, or the full title of the source. The parenthetical citation goes at the end of the sentence.

In Prose

For prose citations, a writer will include the author's first and last name if it is the first reference of the author. If it is not the first reference of the author, then include only the last name. Next add a signal phrase, the quote, and then the in-text citation with the page number. See the following examples from *They Say, I Say* by Graff and Birkenstein:

Dorris and Erdrich insist, "_____" (23).
As the prominent philosopher Plato puts it, "_____" (42).
According to Salazar et al., "_____" (17).
In her book, *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker maintains that "_____" (15).
Harris complicates matters further when he writes that "_____" (92).

Keep in mind that not citing sources properly can be considered a form of plagiarism.

First, however, decide if you are using a **direct quote** (quoting the source verbatim, or word for word) or an **indirect quote** (paraphrasing or putting the concept in your own words, not citing verbatim). Then, when prose or parenthetical citations are more complex, refer to the following examples:

Instructions	Parenthetical Citation Example	Narrative Citation Example
If a source begins with the names of **two authors**, include both last names in the in-text citation, connected by *and*.	(Dorris and Erdrich 23)	Dorris and Erdrich argue, "…." (23).
If a source has **three or more authors**, the in-text citation begins with the first author's last name from the works cited list followed by *et al*.	(Salazar et al. 42)	In a case study by Salazar et al., they found that "…" (42).

An **anthology** is a collection of works by multiple authors. Some may include an essay in an edited collection or anthology, or a chapter of a book. Only cite the authors of the chapter(s) or section(s) you are using, not the entire source.	(Harris 92)	According to Harris, "…" (92).
When a **corporate author** is named in a parenthetical citation, abbreviate terms that are commonly abbreviated, like *Department* (*Dept.*). If the corporate author is identified on the works cited list by the names of administrative units separated by commas, give all names in the in-text citation.	(United States Dept. of Justice 147)	According to a study by the United States Department of Justice, "…" (147).
For a source **without page number or part numbers**, no parenthetical citation is needed if your prose mentions what comes first in the works-cited-list entry (that is, the author's name or, for a work that lack a named author, the title or description).	(Parkers-Pope)	As Tara Parkers-Pope notes, "…."
For **time-based media**, like video, times are now cited in the text. Provide the numbers of hours, minutes, and seconds as they are displayed on a media player, separating the numbers with colons.	("Buffy" 00:03:16-17)	In *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Buffy is running up to her best friend and says, "…" (00:03:16-17).

To cite the **U.S. Constitution**, abbreviate the titles and the works are cited by sections. It is recommended to reference the Constitution in the sentence itself and only provide the amendment and section number in the parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence.	(*U.S. Constitution*, amend. 12, sec. 3)	In the United States Constitution, Amendment 12, section 3 says, "…"
When citing **scripture**, provide an entry on the works-cited list for the edition consulted. While general terms like Bible, Talmud, Koran, and Bhagavad Gita are NOT italicized, full and shortened titles of specific versions are.	(New King James, Psalm 95.2)	In the New King James version of Psalms, the speaker says, "…" (95.2).
When a source has **no known author**, the in-text citation must match the first element in the works cited entry. It may be the name of the organization or the title of the source. If there is a title, shorten the title and place it in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number if it is available.	("Impact of Global Warming" 72)	In the article "Impact of Global Warming" the information gathered says, "…." (72).
To cite **multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference,** separate the citations by a semi-colon.	(Garcia 64; Davies 14)	As Garcia and Davies argue about the ground soil, they suggest some alternatives (64; 14).

Format quotations longer than four full lines of prose as a **block quotation**. Place the quotation in a freestanding block of text and omit quotation marks. Next, start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented ½ an inch from the left margin. Maintain double spacing. The parenthetical citation should come after the last sentence's closing punctuation mark.	Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Brontë 78)	In Brontë's book, the narrator argued that Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (78)