



MLA IN-TEXT CITATIONS (Modern Language Association)

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

Author's name in text cite only the page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

In-text example:

Wordsworth explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

In Works Cited:

Wordsworth, William. Lyrical Ballads. London: Oxford U.P., 1967.

Author's name not in text include both the author's name and page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

In-text example:

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

In Works Cited:

Wordsworth, William. Lyrical Ballads. London: Oxford U.P., 1967.

No author listed for source (cite by title) include the first few words of the title followed by page or paragraph numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Underline book titles and put article and Web site titles in quotation marks.

In-text example:

An Anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("William Wordsworth: Intensity and Achievement " 580).

In Works Cited:

"William Wordsworth: Intensity and Achievement." The Review of English Studies. 45.180 (Nov. 1994): 578. Literature Resource Center. Gale. City College of San Francisco. 15 Dec. 2008 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.

Electronic sources (requires paragraph numbers) When you quote or paraphrase a specific passage in an online source without page numbers, give the relevant paragraph numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

In-text example:

The water level in the Great Lakes has gone down in recent years (Hill, par. 5).

In Works Cited:

Hill, Michael. "If Great Lakes Drop, Hydropower Likely Affected." 1 Sept. 2008 Great Lakes Directory. 10 Dec. 2008 <<http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/Minnesota/sept0108>>.

For more detail and examples, see: MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. REF LB 2369 .G53 2003