MLA In-Text Citations
(Modern Language Association) 8th Edition

The goal of an in-text citation is to easily direct the reader to the corresponding reference in the works-cited list at the end of your paper.

Generally, an in-text citation includes the first element in the corresponding reference in the works-cited list (usually the author or the title if there is no author) and the page number. MLA in-text citations are called parenthetical because the page number is included in the parenthesis.

The information required in the in-text citation depends on the format (book, article, Web site, etc.) and the first element of the full reference in the works-cited list (author, title, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Author's last name in text:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cite only the page number of the source in parentheses at the end of the sentence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In-text example:**

Dawes argues that soda has been a contributing factor in the rise of childhood obesity (207).

**In the works-cited list:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Author's name not in text:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include both the author's last name and page numbers in parenthesis at the end of the sentence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In-text example:**

Wealthier Euro-Americans travelled to California by water, often taking 5 months to arrive (Lindsay 127).

**In the works-cited list:**

No author listed for source:

When there is no author listed, use the first element in the works-cited list such as title. Instead of using the entire title, use only the first few words in order to shorten the citation. Make sure there is enough of the title used in the abbreviation for the reader to easily identify the corresponding entry in the works-cited list.

In-text example:

Manufacturers of illegal drugs similar to fentanyl openly advertise their products on the Internet (“How Globe and Mail Reporters”).

In the works-cited list:


A note about page numbers:

Many Web pages lack page numbers. If your Web page uses a number for a section, chapter, or paragraph, include it. If not, use whatever text item that appears as the first element of your works-cited entry, as shown in the example above (such as an author’s name, article title, Web site title, etc.).

In-text example:

According to the United Nations (Art. 26), everyone has the right to an education.

In the works-cited list:


Citing indirect sources: There are times when you may need to cite an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited within another source (usually a quote). It is best to find the original source and to cite that source directly. However, if you do decide to cite an indirect source quote, use “qtd. in” in the in-text citation for the source you are consulting.

In-text example:

After a federal judge ruled to issue a temporary halt to the executive order, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera wrote, “Because San Francisco took this president to court, we’ve been able to protect billions of dollars that fund lifesaving programs across this country” (qtd. in Yee).

In the works-cited list:


Consult these online and print resources for more details and examples:

- MLA Style Center at style.mla.org
- The OWL at Purdue at owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2
- MLA Handbook, 8th ed. (Ref LB2369.M52 2016)