



MLA In-Text Citations

When to Cite

- 1) When pulling an exact quote out of the source material
- 2) When paraphrasing another author's material
- 3) When including statistics, charts, graphs, etc. from other sources

Basic Format

Citations in MLA require two main pieces of information: the author's name and the page number. These are included in parentheses at the end of the sentence containing the borrowed information, before the final period.

Example: Dingoes are a type of wild dog found in Australia (Letourneau 37).

Or, when the author's name is mentioned in the paper, only cite the page number at the end.

Example: According to Redding, it is better to eat smaller meals throughout the day than three large meals (123).

Missing Author

If the article/work being cited doesn't have an author, either use the full name of the title or shorten the title and the page number(s) in parenthesis.

Example: There have been arguments for big foot being real, but there is very little evidence to support this claim ("Big Foot Lives?" 17-19).

Missing Page Number

If the page number is unknown, then use only the author's name (or article title) in parenthesis.

Example: Stress affects everyone differently, and there are different physical and emotional reactions to stress (American Heart Association).

Two or Three Authors

If there are two or three authors, name all of the authors in the sentence or mention the names in parenthesis with the page number.

Example: Redding and Stevens talk about how semi-colons are often abused in student papers (3).

-OR-

Semi-colons are often abused in student papers (Redding and Stevens 3).

Many Authors

If there are more than three authors, mention all authors in a single sentence or use the first author's last name, followed by the phrase *et al.* (Latin term for "and others").

Example: Letourneau, Redding, Stevens, and Zondlo found that the squash is the most coveted vegetable of farmers around the world (43).

-OR-

Letourneau et al. found that the squash is... (43).

-OR-

The squash is the... (Letourneau et al. 43).

Corporate Author

If the article is written by a corporation, then cite it as the author.

Example: According to the National Wildlife Federation, there are 1,317 endangered species in the United States (1).

*For more information, see the Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>