



MLA In-Text Citations

What Are MLA In-Text Citations?

MLA in-text citations generally include the author's name/s and page number/s for every direct quotation or paraphrase of the author's words, facts, or ideas used in a paper. All in-text citations must correspond to a source on the Works Cited page.

MLA In-Text Citation Format

In MLA, in-text citations can be either parenthetical or narrative.

General Guidelines for Narrative In-Text Citations:

- Include the author's name/s in the text of your sentence.
- Enclose the page number/s or other location information (e.g., line numbers) in parentheses at the end of the quote or paraphrase.
- The period goes after the parentheses with the location information.
- Do not include the author's name/s again in the parentheses. You only need to include the author's name/s once.

Example

Bergreen explained how easy it was for Louis Armstrong to play the Fs and Gs that were challenging for other trumpet players (256).

General Guidelines for Parenthetical In-Text Citations:

- Include the author's last name/s and the page number/s, enclosed within a set of parentheses, at the end of the quote or paraphrase.
- The period goes after the parenthetical citation.

Example

In *Metaphors We Live By*, the authors suggested that metaphors "actually structure our perceptions and understanding" (Lakoff and Johnson 57).

General Guidelines for Citing a Source without an Author:

- If a source does not have an author, use the source's title in your in-text citations instead.
- Use the full title for a narrative citation (e.g., "Chasing the Dream: How to Succeed in College").
- Use a shortened version of the title for a parenthetical citation (e.g., "Chasing the Dream").
- The title should be in quotation marks for a shorter work (e.g., a poem, short story, article, or essay) and in italics for a longer work (e.g., a book or movie).

Example

The homily argues that rebelling against the English monarch amounts to rebelling against God (“Homily” 97).

General Guidelines for Citing a Source without Page Numbers:

- If a source does not have page numbers, you do not have to include any in your in-text citations for that source.
- Do not use page numbers assigned by a printer.
- Most PDF files will have page numbers that are stable, so the page numbers should be included in the in-text citation.

Example

Eighty percent of employers believe that all college students “should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences” (Hart).

Note: Individual instructor’s specifications may vary, so check with your instructor before formatting and submitting your work. Information is based on the 9th edition of the *MLA Handbook*, chapter 6.

Works Consulted

“How do I cite a source that has no author?” *MLA Style Center*, Modern Language Association of America, 9 August 2017, style.mla.org/source-with-no-author/.