MLA PARENTHEtical/IN-TEXT DOCUMENTATION

As stated in the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, the purpose of the parenthetical/in-text citation is to "clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited" (214). Parenthetical - citation is placed at the end of the sentence in parentheses. In-text – citation is referred to in the sentence. Listed below are examples of the most basic parenthetical/in-text citation references. For specific cases or other examples, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* located in the reference section of the library.

### Basic Format: Part of a Work

(Author's Last Name Page Number) i.e. (Calvarese 4-6) (Lennartz 82)

i.e. When citing resources, "identify the location of the borrowed information as specifically as possible" (Gibaldi 239).

If the author's last name appears in the citation, then only a page number is required i.e. Gibaldi tells us to keep parenthetical citations concise (239).

Parenthetical reference placement: "precedes the mark of punctuation", "where a pause would naturally occur (preferably at the end of a sentence), as near as possible to the material" (Gibaldi 241).

### Multiple Authors

Multiple authors: both names are included and joined by the word "and"

i.e. (Finzel and Tygielski 170-174), (Chivers, Scull, and Loper 171)

For more than three authors, use the first author’s last name, followed by the abbreviation "et al."

i.e. (Finzel et al. 170)

### Different Authors With the Same Last Name

When citing different authors with the same last name, include enough information so as to be able to differentiate them

i.e. (G. Finzel 10); (B. Finzel 15)

### More Than One Work by the Same Author

If you are citing more than one work by the same author, a combination of several of these methods is needed. For instance, two sources by the author Vince Aquila, a book called *Fly Like a Falcon*, and a magazine article called "Falcons Spirit," you might use the following

(Aquila, *Fly* 100); (Aquila, "Falcon Spirit" 2-3)

If the author’s name is stated in the sentence, give only the title and page number in the parentheses

(*Fly* 100) If the author’s name and the title are stated in the sentence, give only the page number (100)

### No Author Available

If no author is available, use the title or short form of the title (the first important word or two that allows you to recognize the work). For instance, if you were working with the, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, use the following: (*MLA Handbook* 223)

When working with an article from a Web site, “Citing a Work Listed by Title,” use: (“Citing”) When citing an article from a print magazine, “Citing a Work Listed by Title,” (“Citing” 223)

### Multivolume Work

Include the volume and page numbers when citing more than one volume of a multivolume work. To cite the second volume of a multivolume work, you would use the following: (2: 1976)

If the multivolume work has an author, you would use the following: (Hix and Robertson, vol. 2)

### Common Literature

When citing novels or plays, it is helpful to add more information such as chapter, line, section, book, etc.
Scripture/Bible
In the first citation of the Bible, state in-text or in a parenthetical notation, which Bible you are citing followed by the book, chapter and verse number. (Catholic Youth Bible, Matt. 5.3-12)
In the second citation of the same edition, cite the book, chapter and verse only. (Jas. 2.14-18)

Source Within a Source/Indirect Source
If you are citing a source that is found within another source, use the abbreviation “qtd. in.” For instance, if you want to cite author Harper Lee’s statement in a Roy Newquist book of interviews, you would use the following format: Harper Lee felt that Truman Capote was the “greatest craftsman” of her time (Lee, qtd. in Newquist 10).

Entire Work (Print or Non-print)/Work with No Page Number
When a work has no page number or any other kind of reference numbers, no page number can be given in the parenthetical reference and the work is cited in its entirety.

To cite an entire work, “it is often preferable to include in the text, rather than in a parenthetical reference,” the name of the author or the work that corresponds to the entry in the works-cited list (MLA Handbook 219-220).

Non-print sources (i.e. films, television programs, recordings, etc.) do not use page numbers and are cited in their entirety. Web without page numbers or other reference information are cited in their entirety.

Chapter 7 in MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers offers lists of abbreviations.

Last Update: 8/11