How to do MLA internal citations in your papers and presentations

1. You must cite the information you get from other sources, whether it’s a:
   - Summary (condensing a large amount of information from the source into your own words),
   - Paraphrase (restating the ideas into your own words), or
   - “direct quote” (taking a sentence or short paragraph word for word from a source).

2. In general, use the first item in the full bibliography citation to internally cite the facts from that source in your research essay. Sometimes more than just the first real word is necessary though.*

3. Page numbers need to be included for all print and digital books.

4. More specific rules/help available on “Using Internal Citations – MLA Style” handout (on reverse), or online at the MLA Support page from the Library

Samples of what fact sentences could look like in your paper:

Since Nixon's visit, “tens of thousands of Americans have visited China, and many thousands of Chinese have come to the United States to study and to work” (Dobbs 12).

*Relations with China deteriorated after World War I (“China History”).

Even though the United States had broken the Japanese code, U.S. commanders had no idea that Pearl Harbor was a specific target (“China: Foreign”).

*Relations between the Japanese and the United States were deteriorating. “The breakdown began in 1931 when Japanese army extremists, in defiance of government policy, invaded and overran the northern-most Chinese province of Manchuria” (Shirer 39).

The internal citations match up with the full citations at the end of your essay:

<http://www.chinatoday/history/>.


Now look at your notes you plan to use. Write a full bibliographic citation for one of your resources and then an example fact sentence with the correct internal citation.

Full, correct citation:
Example fact sentence with internal citation:

“India as a World Power” and “India in Today’s Economy” becomes ("India as"). and ("India in"). and

Your teacher or librarian can check your internal citation sample for accuracy 😊

Using Internal Citations - MLA Style

Focus on giving sources for all your facts. When you have a fact in your outline or essay, you must show which source from your bibliography it came from.

**Internal Citation examples:**
Fifty-seven percent of students go on to a four year college from Inglemoor (Sherwood).
An “additional 26 percent” of Inglemoor graduates go on “to a community or technical college” (“Inglemoor”).

**Bibliog. Entries:**


In general, use the first item listed in the correctly formatted citation to show source for your internal citations.

**In text citation MLA Style – looks like this at the END of each fact sentence**

*Note that the period goes only at the very end.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet and other Non-Print sources</th>
<th>Printed works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Author (Sandoval).</td>
<td>1 Author (Sandoval 76).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Authors (Smith and Flurry).</td>
<td>2 Authors (Smith and Flurry 237).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more authors (Night et al).</td>
<td>3 or more authors (Night et al 6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No specific author of an article (&quot;Salmon&quot;). You need to go to the 1st word that identifies this unique source on the bib – so 1 word will often work (but not just <em>The, A, Of, etc.</em>).</td>
<td>No specific author of an article (&quot;Salmon&quot; 3). You need to go to the 1st word that identifies this unique source on the bib – so 1 word will often work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film (<em>Midnight Run</em>). <em>A sample of when you need to go past the 1st word to identify this unique source on the bib. if there are 2 entries that start with Midnight</em></td>
<td>No author article (&quot;Midnight Madness&quot;).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview of any sort (Sherwood).</td>
<td>2 books from same author: (Joyce, <em>Portrait 27</em>). and (Joyce, <em>Ulysses 220</em>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 articles from same author: (Clemmitt, “National”). and (Clemmitt, “Financial”).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several sources that start the same? “India as a World Power” and “India in Today’s Economy” becomes (&quot;India as&quot;). and (&quot;India in&quot;). and</td>
<td>A book with no author whose title also starts the same way? Go as far as you need to show exactly which source this matches up with. (<em>India Today 267</em>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 interviews or authors with same last name (D. Smith). or (S. Smith).</td>
<td>2 authors with same last name (D. Smith 24). or (S. Smith 7).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For internal citations, go as far as you need to uniquely identify which source this fact matches up with.

Notes about matching Source Citations in the paper to your bibliography:
(each source citation in the paper/outline needs to match up with a source on your bibliography)

1. Use just the author’s last name, followed by a page number if it came from a book (Smith 23).
2. “Quotes” around article titles, whether from internet or newspaper or magazine, etc. (“Time”).
3. You can use the 1st word or words that identify that unique source on the bib. (see chart above)