

## In text Citation MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition

In MLA, in-text citations are inserted in the body of your research paper to briefly document the source of your information. Brief in-text citations point the reader to more complete information in the works cited list at the end of the paper.

- In-text citations include the last name of the author followed by a page number enclosed in parentheses. "Here's a direct quote" (Smith 8).
- If the author's name is not given, then use the first word or words of the title. Follow the same formatting that was used in the works cited list, such as quotation marks. This is a paraphrase ("Trouble" 22).

Note: The period goes outside the brackets, at the end of your in-text citation.

### **1- Quoting Directly:**

When you quote directly from a source, enclose the quoted section in quotation marks. Add an in-text citation at the end of the quote with the author name and page number:

Mother-infant attachment has been a leading topic of developmental research since John Bowlby found that "children raised in institutions were deficient in emotional and personality development" (Hunt 358).

#### **- No Page Numbers**

When you quote from electronic sources that do not provide page numbers (like Web pages), cite the author name only.

"Three phases of the separation response: protest, despair, and detachment" (Garelli).

### **2- Paraphrasing:**

When you write information or ideas from a source in your own words, cite the source by adding an in-text citation at the end of the paraphrased portion.

#### **- Paraphrasing from One Page**

Include a full in-text citation with the author name and page number (if there is one). For example:

Mother-infant attachment became a leading topic of developmental research following the publication of John Bowlby's studies (Hunt 65).

#### **- Paraphrasing from Multiple Pages**

If the paraphrased information/idea is from several pages, include them. For example:

Mother-infant attachment became a leading topic of developmental research following the publication of John Bowlby's studies (Hunt 50, 55, 65-71).

### **3- Indirect Sources:**

Sources that are paraphrased or quoted in other sources are called indirect sources. MLA recommends you take information from the original source whenever possible.

If you must cite information from an indirect source, name the original source in the body of your text and cite the source you actually consulted in your in-text citation. Proceed the in-text citation with 'qtd. in.'

#### **Example:**

Kumashiro notes that lesbian and bisexual women of colour are often excluded from both queer communities and communities of colour (qtd. in Dua 188).

In this case, you would also need to cite Dua in your works cited list.

### **4- In text citation for more than one source:**

If you would like to cite more than one source within the same in-text citation, simply record the in-text citations as normal and separate them with a semi-colon.

#### **Examples:**

(Smith 42; Bennett 71).

(*It Takes Two*; Brock 43).

Note: The sources within the in-text citation do not need to be in alphabetical order for MLA style.

### **5- Intext Citation for more than one author:**

Two authors: (Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name Page Number)

Example: (Case and Daristotle 57)

Three authors: (Author's Last Name et al. Page Number)

Example: (Case et al. 57)

### **6- Long Quotations:**

#### **What Is a Long Quotation?**

If your quotation extends to more than four lines as you're typing your essay, it is a long quotation.

#### **Rules for Long Quotations**

There are 4 rules that apply to long quotations that are different from regular quotations:

1. The line before your long quotation, when you're introducing the quote, usually ends with a colon.
2. The long quotation is indented half an inch from the rest of the text, so it looks like a block of text.
3. There are no quotation marks around the quotation.
4. The period at the end of the quotation comes *before* your in-text citation as opposed to *after*, as it does with regular quotations.

### **Example of a Long Quotation**

At the end of *Lord of the Flies* the boys are struck with the realization of their behaviour:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (Golding 186)