

MLA In-text Citation Guide



Adapted from Easybib

It is important to understand that using information from other sources and placing them into a project is entirely acceptable and recommended, as it can improve the credibility of a paper. However, the only ethical way information from outside sources can be included in a project is if the researcher lets the reader know that the information was found elsewhere, and tells them where that information is from. This is done with an in-text, or a parenthetical citation (in the body of a project), AND a full reference on the MLA Works Cited page (the final page of a project).

Examples – from *Purdue Online Writing Lab*

Print Sources with Author

Paraphrase

In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded word for word (Lester 47).

Direct Quote

In James Lester's work, *Writing Research Papers*, he states, "you should work to limit the amount of exact copying of source materials while taking notes" (47). This idea that word for word copying should be kept to a minimum, is important since you want the reader to know what you think about the topic.

Summary

Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 47).

Print Sources with No Known Author – use *shortened title of the work*

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming").