

MLA IN-TEXT CITATION STYLE GUIDE

DIRECT QUOTES AND PARENTHETICAL STATEMENTS

Whenever you incorporate another author's words, facts, or ideas into your paper, you must acknowledge the source by using an in-text reference that links to a full citation in your works cited list.

The MLA style uses parenthetical references in the form of the author name and page number of the referred to material in the text of a paper. The author name and page numbers may be enclosed in parentheses or, to improve readability, the author's name may be part of your text, with only the referred to pages enclosed in parentheses.

DIRECT QUOTES

For quotations less than four lines long:

Krent maintains, "the need for congressional approval..." (115).

or

"The need for congressional approval..."..... (Krent 115).

If the quotation is more than four lines in your paper, you must use the block quote format. Begin the quoted text on a new line, indent the quote 1 inch (10 spaces), do not use quotation marks, and double-space type the quoted text. A colon at the end of your preceding sentence is used to introduce the quotation.

At the conclusion of Lord of the Flies, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them no 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. (186)

PARENTHETICAL STATEMENTS

When you paraphrase another author's words, the type and number of authors will determine the format you use for an in-text citation.

Single or multiple authors

In a recent analysis of male roles...(Tallmadge 20).

or

In the introduction to Honor, Status, and Law in Modern Latin America editors Caulfield, Chambers, and Putnam integrate the concepts...(10-15).

Corporate author

The American Psychiatric Association recommends...(7-21).

No author identified

In the Concise Medical Dictionary, anemia is defined as....(127).

Government documents

The United States Congress, House Select Committee to Investigate Cover Arms Transactions with Iran characterized Oliver North's role...(97-184).

Web pages with an author

Burgess and Burgess define civility.....

Web pages with no author

In 1980, the Democratic Party crafted a platform that reflected the values...("Democratic Party Platform of 1980").