

MLA 7th Ed. In-Text Citations

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Notes on Parenthetical References (214):

- Match them to the corresponding entries in your list of works cited.
- Put the last name of the author (or the work’s title) followed by a space, then the page number(s) of the text cited in parentheses (except for special instances).
- Place them where a pause would naturally occur (preferably at the end of a sentence), as near as possible to the material documented.
- Omit any citation information that you include in the sentence from the citation itself.
- Put a parenthetical reference following a quotation after the closing quotation mark and before any following comma or end-punctuation [ex: In the late Renaissance, Machiavelli contended that human beings were by nature “ungrateful” and “mutable” (1240), and Montaigne thought them “miserable and puny” (1343).].

WORKS CITED	
Situation (MLA pg #)	Example
Authors with the same last name (215): Add the first initial.	(W. Wordsworth 23); (D. Wordsworth 224)
If the initial is the same, use the full first name.	(John Smith 1); (Jane Smith 2)
Two or more authors begin works cited entry (215): Give the last name of each person listed.	(White, Black and Greene 80)
Three or more authors begin works cited entry (215): Give the first author’s name followed by “et al.,” or give all the last names.	(Allen et al. 101)
Work is listed by title (223): Use the title, shortened or in full.	(“Creating Writing Center Handouts” 6)
Two + anonymous works with same title (215): Add a publication fact, such as a date, that distinguishes the works.	(“Snowy Owl,” <i>Arctic</i>); (“Snowy Owl,” <i>Hinterland</i>) (“Cats,” 1984); (“Cats,” 2000)
Two or more works by the same author (225): Add the cited title, shortened or in full, after the author’s last name.	(Frye, <i>Anatomy</i> 237); (Frye, <i>The Double Vision</i> 100)

IN-TEXT	
Situation (MLA pg #)	Example
Author's name in text (216):	Tannen has argued this point (178-85).
Author's name in reference (216):	This point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).
Authors' names in text (216):	Others, like Jakobson and Waugh (210-15), hold the opposite view.
Authors' names in reference (216):	Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jakobson and Waugh 210-15).
If more than 3 authors follow the form on the works cited page, give the first author's last name followed by "et al."	(Lauter et al. 2425-33) or give all the last names.

SOURCE-RELATED	
Situation (MLA pg #)	Example
Citing indirect sources (226): Put "qtd. in" (quoted in) before the indirect source you cite.	Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Weinberg 1:405, 616-17).
Literary works (226): When referencing a classic prose work (novel, play, etc.) that is available in many editions, provide more than the page #; use a chapter number, section number, etc. Follow the author and page number by a semi-colon, then add the information.	In <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , Mary Wollstonecraft recollects many "women who, not led by degrees to proper studies, and not permitted to choose for themselves, have indeed been overgrown children (185; ch. 13, sec. 2).
Plays, Classic verse (226): Omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating the various numbers.	Book 9, line 19, of Homer's <i>Iliad</i> : (<i>Iliad</i> 9.19) Act 4, Scene 1 in <i>King Lear</i> : (<i>King Lear</i> 4.1) is preferred, or (<i>King Lear</i> IV.i)
Poems, Classic verse (226): Give line #'s instead of page #'s	In "Marching Song," Nesbit declares, "Our arms and hearts are strong for all who suffer wrong . . ." (line 11).

Information referenced from:

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.