

MLA Internal Citations

Basic Format

The basic format for MLA in-text citation is as follows:

(Author's Last Name _ Page Number) _ = space

i.e. One author claims that “no one is concerned with this issue” (Jones 45).

The period goes AFTER the citation.

If the author's last name appears in the citation, then only a page number is required:

i.e. “Howard Jones argues that ‘no one is concerned with this issue’” (45).

Multiple Authors

Multiple authors are cited in a similar way, although both names are included, and joined by the word “and”:

i.e. (Cortez and Jones 56)

For more than three authors, use the first author's last name, followed by the abbreviation “et al.”:

i.e. (Cortez et al. 378)

Different Authors With the Same Last Name

When citing different authors with the same last name, include enough information so as to be able to differentiate them:

i.e. (H. Jones 48); (R. Jones 36)

Group Authors

When identifying corporate authors, use the same format, but substitute the group name:

i.e. (Modern Language Association 68)

The MLA Handbook also recommends that long group names be placed in the text itself, so as to avoid unwieldy in-text citations:

i.e. “The Society for the Greater Advancement of the Common Good insists that ‘all people have a right to free health care’” (47).

No Author Available

If no author is available, use a short form of the title (the shortest form that will allow you to recognize the work properly). For instance, if you were working with **an article or a website** called “Thirty Reasons to Spay Your Pet,” you might use the following:

(“Thirty Reasons” 26)

If you were working with a book with no author called Belief in the Supernatural, you might use:

(Belief 567)

Source Within a Source

If you are citing a source that is found within another source, use the abbreviation “qtd. in.” For instance if you want to cite musician Miles Davis as he appears in a Nat Hentoff article, you would use the following format:

(Davis, qtd. in Hentoff 34)

Citing Long Passages

When citing a passage of more than three lines from a book, skip a space, indent on both sides of the margin, and write the quote single-spaced *without* quotation marks:

Teaching is attracting more and more people, even as a second career:

←Double-spaced essay

The New Teacher Project, which helps people switch from other careers to the classroom, said 29,576 people have applied to its teaching fellows programs this year, a 44% increase over last year. The group was founded in 1997 by Michelle Rhee, now the schools superintendent in the District of Columbia (Quaid 4).

←Single-spaced, indented quote with citation at end

The District of Columbia is only one such place attracting second-career teachers. In an economic downswing, many are looking for a dependable career.

← back to double-spaced essay