

# MLA: Parenthetical Documentation

Whenever you use information or ideas from another text in your paper, you must indicate what work you used and where in the text you found it. Parenthetical citations must also clearly point to specific sources on the works cited page. For more information, please refer to the Modern Language Association's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.

## **A work by one author**

*Give the author's last name and the page number.*

In medieval art appreciation, "the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (Hart 36).

Or

Hart states that, in medieval art appreciation, "the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (36).

## **A work by two or three authors**

*Write out all last names.*

The death penalty is not warranted because of all the innocent people who have been found on death row (Jacobsen and Waugh 210).

Or

Jacobsen and Waugh claim that the death penalty is not warranted because of all the innocent people who have been found on death row (210).

## **A work by more than three authors**

*List only the first author, followed by et al., or write out each author's last name.*

The European powers believed they could change the fundamentals of Islam (Bull et al. 395).

## **A work in multiple volumes**

*If more than one volume is listed on the works cited page, include volume number: page number.*

The French Revolution had a great influence on William Blake (Raine 1:52).

## **A work without an author**

*Use a shortened version of the title beginning with the first word listed on works cited page.*

Ralph Ellison is "a writer of universal reach" ("Death" A18).

**An indirect source**

*Use the abbreviation qtd. in.*

Wagner stated that myth and history stood before him “with opposing claims” (qtd. in Jones 65).

**Same information from more than one work**

*Separate references with a semicolon.*

Many American artists have used the Brooklyn Bridge as a subject (McKay 144; Tashjian 58).

**Two or more authors with same last name**

*Include the author’s first initial; if the first name initial is shared, write out the first name.*

Crime is on the rise (R. Wishoff 115). Yet some believe “it’s not” (C. Wishoff 76).

**An article in an online journal**

*Journal citations include the last name of the author. If the source lacks page numbers, use a paragraph or section number, or omit numbering in your citation.*

Among recent trends in youth music culture, perhaps none has been so widely reviled as the rise of a new generation of manufactured “teenybopper” pop acts (Wald, par. 1).

**A personal Web site**

*Always use the author, rather than the title or the URL, of the site.*

My name is John Johnson and this is my homepage (Johnson).

**A scholarly project**

*Use a shortened version of the project’s name.*

The goal of the Victorian Women Writers Project is to produce highly accurate transcriptions of works by British women writers of the 19th Century (*Victorian*).

**A direct quote that runs more than four lines**

*Indent the entire quote by 1 inch, and double space (this handout is single spaced to conserve paper). Do not use quotation marks. Note that the punctuation comes before the citation in this case.*

Many feminist critics have studied the novel from a political point of view:

During the nineteenth century, the novelist’s position became problematic in relation to these other writers. Because the novel—in England at least—was written in the language of women, novelists could not really be considered among the professional people and intellectuals. This was true despite the fact it was indeed possible for women to enter certain professions. (Armstrong 227)