MLA Citations: In-Text and Parenthetical

Writers incorporate researched information into papers in 3 ways: **paraphrase, summary,** and **quotation.** All three uses require in-text citations to do the following:

- Identify the sources used in the paper
- Direct the reader to the alphabetical list of Works Cited, which correlates with in-text citations
- Clearly distinguish the writer's own ideas from information taken from outside sources

Paraphrases and Summaries: Cite references in text with **(author [space] page number)**

One to three authors: Give name(s) in the text **or** in the parenthetical citation. Give page numbers in parentheses.

> According to Basu and Amin, the people of West Bengal and Bangladesh are not limited by political borders;
>
> a common language enables them to communicate political and religious difference (765).
>
> The people of West Bengal … political and religious difference (Basu and Amin 765).

More than three authors: 1) List all authors by name **or** 2) Give first author's name followed by *et al.*

> Bowers, Griffith, Mariko, and Harue argue that due to similarities in the plot development of each play; both
>
> Hamlet and Chushingura could be played by the same set of actors from any given company (182).
>
> Due to similarities in the plot … from any given company (Bowers et al. 182).

Author unknown: cite by mentioning the full title in the signal phrase, or by using an appropriate abbreviated version in the parenthetical citation (abbreviate enough so that readers can find the source easily on your works cited page).

> "Lower Enrollment Issues Continue to Haunt District" depicts the difficulty one Michigan school system has with
>
> predicting enrollment during the economic downturn.
>
> Like many Michigan school systems, Marlette has trouble predicting enrollment during the economic downturn
>
> ("Lower Enrollment Issues").

Indirect Source (quotation or paraphrase found in someone else's work): put "qtd. in" before the author's name. Include only the source you used (e.g., Healy) in the Works Cited. For the example below, the writer found the Kauffman quote in the text written by Healy.

> When planning to continue his interview process, Kauffman expressed his "degree of apprehension about coming
>
> back to Laramie" (qtd. in Healy A1).

Source is a corporation, organization, group, government agency, or association: treat the source <u>as the author</u>. If the name is long, identify it <u>in the text rather than in parentheses</u>.

> According to the U.S. Department of Education, successful charter schools "operate with a clear mission, defined
>
> intentions, and thoughtful goal setting" (4).

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Saginaw Valley State University

Multiple sources: when citing two or more different sources in-text in the same sentence, include a parenthetical citation after each author's paraphrased idea or quotation. If sources are cited in the same parentheses, use alphabetical order and separate with a semicolon.

> Studies have shown that children younger than eight are "unable to critically comprehend televised advertising messages" ("Television Advertising"), and that children between the ages of four and five generally can't tell the difference between commercials and television programs (Ramsey).
>
> Children who watch more than four hours of television a day are more likely to be obese (Lewis 49; Richards 23).

Web sites: if no author is given, identify the source by its title, either in the parenthetical citation or in the text of the paper. Give enough information so that readers can find the source on your works cited page.

> SVSU's students are encouraged to document every source they use in their writings to avoid violating the Student Code of Conduct, which was adopted by the Student Association in 2005 ("Academic Integrity").
>
> The Academic Integrity page of SVSU's Web site encourages students to document every source they use in their writings to avoid violating the Student Code of Conduct, which was adopted by the Student Association in 2005.

Quotations: cite in text with (author page number) or (page number)

> In comparing speech patterns of men and women, evidence seems to support characterizing men as "far more "gossipy" than women—especially when one includes sexual bragging" (Steinem 679).
>
> In her book *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, Gloria Steinem analyzes speech patterns of men and women and observes that "a rejection of the way a woman speaks is often a way of blaming or dismissing her without dealing with the content of what she is saying" (680).

Block Quotations: quotations longer than four typed lines of verse or five lines of prose.
- Set the quotation apart from the text by indenting the entire quotation one inch from the left margin
- Maintain double-spacing
- Use a colon to introduce block quotations unless the grammar of the quotation requires otherwise
- Do **not** use quotation marks
- Include the parenthetical citation **after** the punctuation

> Connie's intuition directs her to make judgments about Arnold Friend that she wouldn't have made otherwise:
>> Connie stared at him, another wave of dizziness and fear rising in her so that for a moment he wasn't even in focus but was just a blur standing there against his gold car, and she had the idea that he had driven up in the driveway all right but had come from nowhere before that and belonged nowhere and that everything about him and even the music that was so familiar to her was only half real. (2598)

Entire work (e.g., film or book): refer to it in the paper, not inside parentheses. Include full citation on Works Cited page.

> Jason Reitman's film *Juno*, starring the free-spirited, sharp-tongued Juno McGuff, provides a look into one teenager's experience with pregnancy that dispels many stereotypes.

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