

## **Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations**

The purpose of in-text citations is to give credit to the source for the material and to refer your readers to the Works Cited page where they can learn more about the source if they so choose. Effective in-text citations are essential. Include in-text citations for summaries, paraphrases and direct quotes. Any time you borrow the ideas of someone else – whether you quote directly, paraphrase, or summarize – you must give them credit!

When you introduce a source into your paper for the first time, it is important to incorporate the author's name (at the very least) into your sentence. It is also wise to include the title of the author's work and/or the author's credentials.

Parenthetical citation occurs after the borrowed material. If several sentences in a row are summarized from the same source, instead of citing every sentence, cite at the end of the borrowed material only.

Internal or Parenthetical Documentation in MLA is easier than one may think. The first step is to determine the Works Cited entry for the source. Then you can determine what goes in the text. Whatever comes first in the Works Cited entry appears in the parenthetical documentation.

- If the initial information is in quotation marks in the Works Cited entry (NO AUTHOR LISTED), it will be in quotes in the parenthesis. If this information is lengthy, use only the first two or three words in parenthesis. (See "Source with an anonymous author" below)
- If the information is underlined in the Works Cited entry (NO AUTHOR LISTED), it will be underlined in the parenthesis. If this information is lengthy, use only the first two or three words in parenthesis.
- If a person's name is first to appear in the Works Cited entry, then the last name appears in the parenthesis. (See "Source with author" below)

Notice the period goes after the quote and the author's last name and page numbers (if a print source) are included.

### **Source with author**

Crime is on the rise in most metropolitan areas in the United States (Barker 25).

### **Source with an anonymous author**

The number of people who are becoming vegetarians has been on the rise since the 1970s ("Trends in Eating").

### **Author's name mentioned in the text**

According to John West, author of "Living Well," diet and exercise are the two most important factors in determining a person's health (5).

### **Direct Quote**

Announced renowned historian Latoya Johnson, "Television will be the decay of the world" (75).