In-Text Citations

In-text citations include the author’s last name and the page number on which the cited information is found in the source.

You can put your citation in parenthesis at the end of the cited material (called a parenthetical citation):

(Wordsworth 263).

You can also use a signal phrase to introduce your material:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

One Author
See the example above.

Two Authors
For a source with two authors, include both of the authors’ last names:

(Smith and Moore 76).

Smith and Moore argue that, “tighter gun control in the U.S. erodes Second Amendment Rights” (Smith and Moore 76).

Three or More Authors
For a source with three or more authors, provide the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”

Jones et al. counter the argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in American compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).

No Known Author
For a source with no known author, use a shortened title of the resource in the parenthetical citation.

Many global warming hotspots exist in North America because this region has “comprehensive programs to monitor the environment” (“Impact” 6).

Organization as Author
Give the organization as the author. Include page numbers if they are available.

The cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2012 was estimated at $245 billion (American Diabetes Association).

No Page Number/ Internet Sources
You do not need a page or paragraph number in the parenthetical citation. Include the author’s last name, or, if an author cannot be identified, a shortened title.

One online film critic stated that the film is “. . .a scary critique of obsession” (Garcia).
Works Cited

- Works cited are at the end of the paper on a separate page, with “Works Cited” centered at the top.
- The list is double-spaced and in alphabetical order by author, or by title when there is no author.
- Indent all lines after the first line ½” from the margin (also called a hanging indent) – see the Formatting Tips section on the other side of this page.
- Each entry has two parts: the author(s) and the type of information (book, journal article, website, etc.).
- If you cite a source in your paper, it should be in the Works Cited list. If it’s listed in the Works Cited, there should be an in-text citation in your paper.

Types of Sources

**Book**

Author Last, First. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.


**Journal Article from a Database**

Author Last, First. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal*, vol. #, no. #, Month Year. pp. #-#. *Database*. DOI or permalink.


**Article in an Online Magazine or Newspaper**

Author Last, First. “Title of Article.” *Title of Periodical*, Date of Publication. URL.


**Web Page or Document from a Web Site**

Author Last, First. “Title of Page.” *Title of Site*. Publisher/Sponsor, Date of Publication. URL.


Optional for Online Documents

You may be asked to include the date of access. This will go at the end of your citation, in this format: Accessed 28 Aug. 2017.

More MLA Citation Guidelines:

Helena College Library Citation Guide: http://helenacollege.libguides.com/citations

Purdue Online Writing Lab MLA: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html