

# MLA Style – In-Text Citation

MLA style is a set of guidelines established by the Modern Language Association for presenting written research. See the *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed., MLA, 2021.

## Basic Format Author-Page Style

In addition to having a works cited list at the end of your paper, you must give credit to sources that you use within your paper. Usually the author's last name and page number are enough for the reader to identify the source in the works cited. The citation appears in your text or at the end of a sentence.

## Examples

### Author's name in text

If you cite the author's name in your sentence, cite only page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence. The first time you mention the author, include the first and last name. After that, list only the last name.

Wilkerson notes that America is like an old house that needs to be fixed (16).

### Author's name in parentheses

If you do not cite the author's name in your sentence, then include both the author's last name and page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

The author notes that America is like an old house that need to be fixed (Wilkerson 16).

#### Works Cited

Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents*. Random House, 2020.

### No author (cite by title)

When there is no author listed for a work, include the first few words of the title followed by page numbers, if available, in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Italicize longer works, such as book titles, plays, or entire websites. Put shorter works in quotation marks.

Methane is a powerful heat-trapper ("Methane Mystery" 72).

#### Works Cited

"The Methane Mystery: Climate Change." *The Economist*, 28 Apr. 2018, p. 72.  
*General OneFile*, link.galegroup.com.lcc.idm.oclc.org/apps/doc/A536297876/ITOF?u=lom\_lansingcc&sid=ITOF&xid=014f5dbb.

## Two authors in text

Include both authors' names with "and" between the names. The first time you mention the authors, include the first and last names. After that, list only the last names.

Jeff Mann and Julia Watts talk about the life changing experience in discovering authors who were both gay and from Appalachia (xiii).

## Two authors in parentheses

Include both authors' last names, with "and" between the names.

The authors describe the life changing experience in discovering authors who were both gay and from Appalachia (Mann and Watts xiii).

### Works Cited

Mann, Jeff and Julia Watts. *LGBTQ Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia*. West Virginia UP, 2018.

## Three or more authors in text

If the source has three or more authors, cite the first author's first and last name followed by "and colleagues" or "and others." You may also list all of the names.

Rodlescia Sneed and colleagues say many water-related concerns are still a problem (802).

## Three or more authors in parentheses

If the source has three or more authors, cite the first author's last name followed by et al.

The authors say many water-related concerns are still a problem (Sneed et al. 802).

### Works Cited

Sneed, Rodlescia S., et al. "Behavioral Health Concerns During the Flint Water Crisis, 2016–2018." *Community Mental Health Journal*, vol. 56, no. 5, 2020, pp. 793-803. *ProQuest*, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10597-019-00520-7>.

## Quoting and paraphrasing

### Page numbers

When you quote or paraphrase a specific part of source with page numbers, give the relevant page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Brown wrote, "Time management is an important survival skill" (27).

### Without page numbers

When you quote or paraphrase a specific passage in a source without page numbers, no page numbers are needed. If available, use the PDF version because it includes page numbers.

According to Jones, binge drinking is a serious problem.

