

# MLA In-Text Citations Cheat Sheet - 9th Edition

*To maximize quantity, all examples are single spaced; in practice, use double spacing!*

## Source author named in a signal phrase (narrative citation):

Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's name. If there is a page number, place it at the end of the sentence inside the period.

- Naomi Baron argues that reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (194).

If the quotation appears mid-sentence and there is a naturally occurring pause afterward, place the page number directly after the quote but before the comma.

- Sofia Sanchez wanted to “demystify the convoluted application process” (98), but the pandemic brought the project to a screeching halt.

## Source author named in parentheses (parenthetical citation):

Place the author's last name and the page number inside parentheses after the source material.

- Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194).

## Organization/group as author:

In prose, use the full organization/group name with page number(s) at the end of the sentence.

- According to a study by the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society, “The speed of warming is more than ten times that at the end of an ice age” (22).

In parenthetical citations, condense the organization/group name to the shortest noun phrase.

- According to one study on climate change, “The speed of warming is more than ten times that at the end of an ice age” (National Academy 22).

## No author:

Cite the source by its full title (in title case) using a signal phrase.

- The study “Audism: Oppression of Deaf Individuals” defines audism as “a prejudice that results in a stigma toward anyone who cannot hear” (3).

Condense the source's title to the shortest noun phrase (in title case) in parentheses.

- Audism is “a prejudice that results in a stigma toward anyone who cannot hear” (“Audism” 3).

## Two authors:

In prose, at first mention, include both authors' first and last names connected with “and.”

- Jay Lemery and Padma Singh note that doctors have not studied the drug's effects on adolescents (61).

In a parenthetical citation, list only the last names connected with “and.”

- Doctors have yet to study the drug's effects on adolescents (Lemery and Singh 61).

### **Three or more authors:**

In prose, provide the name of the first author followed by “and others.”

- Ayante Simmons and others discovered a wealth of useful information in confiscated textbooks (205).

In a parenthetical citation, list the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”

- They discovered a wealth of useful information in confiscated textbooks (Simmons et al. 205).

### **Citing the same source multiple times:**

If you refer to the same source more than once in succession (no other source intervenes), clearly define the source the first time using either a narrative or parenthetical citation. Thereafter, you do not need to identify the source again unless ambiguity would result. NOTE: each time you switch sources, you must provide a new citation, even if it is within the same paragraph.

- Taye Koehler examined how journalistic coverage influences public perception of the level of agreement among experts (315-318). After providing participants with reviews for movies that critics either loved or loathed, he found that participants better appreciated the level of expert consensus for highly rated movies when only positive reviews were provided rather than when both positive and negative views were provided. These findings demonstrate that providing evidence for both sides when most experts agree may lead to a false sense of balance.
  - You may close with an optional parenthetical citation (in this case, after “balance”) to indicate the end of material from that particular source. This is often called the “sandwiching” method.

### **Helpful Tips:**

- In-text citations use the first word(s) that appear in the corresponding full Work Cited entry. This may be an author name, article title, etc.
- Italicize the titles of books, journals, magazines, entire websites and other long/complete works. Use quotation marks around the titles of articles, single webpages, and other short works.
- For titles of all works, use title case capitalization. This means capitalizing all words except articles (a, an, the), prepositions, coordinating conjunctions, and the “to” in infinitives – unless the word is first or last in the title or subtitle.
- There is no punctuation between the name and page number, and the period always follows the closing parenthesis: (Vinh 10).
- Do not precede page numbers with “p.” or “pp.”
- If there are no page numbers, consult the instructor. They may ask you to use paragraph numbers, chapters, etc., or they may tell you to omit the page number.
- In prose, give the author’s full name at first mention. Thereafter, use only the last name.