

II. In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Documentation)

MLA Style requires brief citation information to be included *in the text* of the paper OR *in parentheses* following a quotation, summary, or paraphrase. Complete bibliographical information is given only once, in the bibliography called “Works Cited” on a separate page, at the end of the paper.

In-text citations must match the initial element of the item in the “Works Cited” list.

The table below gives examples of the most common in-text citations:

Situation	Examples of text and in-text citations
Author is quoted or paraphrased but <u>not named in the text</u> . <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.2)</i>	It may be true that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance . . .” (Robertson 136).
Author is quoted or paraphrased and <u>is named in the text</u> . <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.3)</i>	Sigmund Freud states that a “dream is a fulfillment of a wish” (154). Smith developed the argument in his 1997 book (185-91).
Author is quoted or paraphrased and <u>is named in the text</u> . Quoted work has <u>no page numbers</u> . <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.4.1)</i>	Chan considers the same topic in the context of Hong Kong cinema. <i>(no parenthetical citation required)</i> <div style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</div> Chan, Evans. “Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.” <i>Postmodern Culture</i> 10.3 (2000): n. pag. <i>Project Muse</i> . Web. 20 May 2002.
Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased. <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.4.6)</i>	Modern researchers now accept the principle that dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes, <i>Sleep</i> 184). But investigation has shown that young children’s dreams are in general “rather simple and unemotional” (Foulkes, “Dreams” 78)
A work with two or three authors is quoted or paraphrased. <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.2)</i>	For all their efforts to generalize about child behavior, psychologists recognize that “no two children are exactly alike” (Gesell and Ilg 68).
A work with more than three authors is quoted or paraphrased. <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.2)</i>	“The research . . . challenges the notions of ‘readiness’ that prevailed in education for much of the 20 th century” (Whitmore et al. 298). <div style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</div> Whitmore, Kathryn F., et al. “Critical Lessons from the Transactional Perspective on Early Literacy Research.” <i>Journal of Early Childhood Literacy</i> 4.3 (2004): 291-325. <i>Sage Journals Online</i> . Web. 25 Sept. 2008.
A work with no author (listed by title) is quoted or paraphrased. <i>(MLA Handbook, 6.4.4)</i>	A <i>New York Times</i> editorial called Ralph Ellison “a writer of universal reach” (“Death” A18). <div style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</div> “Death of a Writer.” Editorial. <i>New York Times</i> 20 Apr. 1994, late ed.: A18. Print.

Situation	Examples of text and in-text citations
<p>A work by an agency or corporation is quoted or paraphrased. (<i>MLA Handbook</i>, 6.4.5)</p>	<p>The State Department’s travel advisory “strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State” (U.S. Dept. of State. Bureau).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p>The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs “strongly encourages American citizens planning travel abroad to register their travel with the Department of State.” (<i>no parenthetical citation required</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>United States. Dept. of State. Bureau of Consular Affairs. “Tips for Traveling Abroad.” <i>Travel.state.gov</i>. Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State, n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2008.</p> <p>(NOTE: To avoid a very long in-text citation, use the full name of the agency or corporation in the sentence.)</p>
<p>A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased. (<i>MLA Handbook</i>, 5.7.7)</p>	<p>In an interview with Stephanie Arkin, I found that she and her friends “feel that teenagers today aren’t motivated to <i>do</i> anything. They just hang around.” (<i>no parenthetical citation required</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p>Most older people seem to “feel that teenagers today aren’t motivated to <i>do</i> anything. They just hang around” (Arkin).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>Arkin, Stephanie. Personal interview. 22 July 2007.</p>
<p>A poem is quoted. (<i>MLA Handbook</i>, 3.7.3, 6.4.8)</p>	<p>In Robert Frost’s poem “The Death of the Hired Man,” one character describes home as “the place where, when you have to go there / They have to let you in” (lines 118-19).</p>
<p>A play with act, scene, and line numbers is quoted. (<i>MLA Handbook</i>, 3.7.2, 6.4.8)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Any quotation of more than four lines. (<i>MLA Handbook</i>, 3.7.2)</p>	<p>Shakespeare’s famous metaphor on the meaning of life appears in the last act of <i>Macbeth</i>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Out, out, brief candle! Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing. (5.5.23-28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>Shakespeare, William. <i>Macbeth: Authoritative Text, Sources and Contexts, Criticism</i>. Ed. Robert S. Miola. New York: Norton, 2004. Print. Norton Critical Ed.</p> <p>(NOTE: A quotation of more than four lines, whether poetry or prose, is indented one inch from left margin, has no quotation marks, and has parenthetical citation after the last period.)</p>
<p>Quoting an indirect source (a quoted quote) (<i>MLA Handbook</i> 6.4.7)</p>	<p>The critic Susan Aikens has argued on behalf of what she calls "canonical multiplicity" (qtd. in Mayers 677).</p> <p>The “Works Cited” list will include an entry for Mayers but not for Aikens.</p>