

Name:  
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Ms. Lopez

## Writing Parenthetical Citations Using MLA 8th ed. Formatting

A parenthetical citation (also known as an in-text citation and parenthetical documentation) is when you make reference to your source within the text of your paper instead of using a raised superscript numeral that makes reference to a footnote or endnote. **One main purpose of the parenthetical citation is to lead your reader to the proper Works Cited entry on your Works Cited page.**

The MLA style generally requires you to **list the first term in your Works Cited entry** (typically the author's last name), one space, **and a page number (if there is one)** in your text, usually within parentheses, and then, at the end of your paper, to provide a full bibliographic entry in a Works Cited section. 1

Helen Keller learned to speak, and she earned a degree at Radcliffe College in 1904. "Unlocked from her own handicaps, she began her devoted efforts to help the blind and other handicapped persons" (Barnett 210).

*Works Cited entry:*

Barnett, Frank. *Helen Keller: Her Life and Work*. Vintage Books, 2011.

**If the first piece of information in the works Cited entry is a title, only use the first word from the title (omitting articles), if the title is longer than a noun phrase. Use the same quotation marks or italics if necessary.** 2

"Animals can recognize quantities, but there is less evidence for their ability to carry out explicit mathematical tasks, such as addition. [The] . . . study shows that they can" ("Lab Animals").

*Works Cited entry:*

"Lab Animals are Smarter than the Students of Duke University." *Psychology Today*, 22 Sept. 2011, pp. 15-16. *SIRS Issues Researcher*, sirs.com. Accessed 31 Mar. 2019.

*Full Titles:*

*The Double Vision*

"Faulkner's Southern Novels"

"How You Can Help Yourself"

*Under the Volcano*

*Citation:*

(*Double Vision* 33).

("Faulkner's Southern Novels").

("How").

(*Under* 112).

**Place the parenthetical citation as close to the quote as possible *without sacrificing readability*.** Place it where there would be a natural pause at the end of a clause or at the end of the sentence. **The period is placed after the parentheses** (except in block quotations of quotes over four lines, but for this paper, you should not have any quotes that long). 3

These animals "scrounge for nourishment from . . . the many restaurant dumpsters" they can find in the downtown area (Pezi).

Even with the knowledge that statistics indicate they should change their selection, "The human test subjects consistently lost to the pigeons at a 5:1 ratio" (Foster), making cognitive scientists redefine the human conceptions of intelligence and learning.

**If the quote ends in an exclamation point or a question mark, include it within the quote and place a period after the parenthetical citation.** 4

"Perhaps 5,000 more [Chicago shelter animals] are reclaimed by their owners. [What happens to] The rest?" (Hageman).

**Using an author's name within a signal phrase and ending with a page number** is useful for indicating exactly where a paraphrase begins (author/speaker) and ends (page). You may also want to use it occasionally to break up the routine. 5

*Paraphrases:*

James T. Kirk praises video games for aiding in the sharpening of certain skills in children (45).

ASPCA veterinarian Dr. Sydney Martin notes that while the average housecat lives fifteen years in comfort, the cat on the street has an average lifespan of three years (72).

5  
cont'd

*Direct quote:*

James T. Kirk states, "The mental gymnastics of video games help develop children's eye-hand coordination" (45).

**When citing a source with two or more authors**, separate the two authors with "and" without using any intervening punctuation. **When citing a source with three or more authors**, write the first author's last name and the phrase "et al." which is Latin for and others. There is no intervening punctuation.

6

In Yonkers, "A white cat had been strung up from a branch of a crooked tree. Next to it hung a black bag. 'We pulled on the bag and a little black kitten fell out,' . . . [a Yonkers worker] said. . . . 'It was a day or two old'" (Santora and Schweber).

"Hi-ho! Hi-ho! It's off to work we go!" (Dwarf et al. 1082).

**When you are citing somebody whose work is quoted in a book or article (citing indirect sources)**, you need to cite both the speaker and the author who wrote the quote. The author's name will appear on the Works Cited page, but the speaker of the quote will not, so use the speaker's name in the text, perhaps with a signal phrase.

7

John Steinbeck lived his life believing that the writer should "attack social injustices" (qtd. in Schultz and Li 310).

*Works Cited entry:*

Schultz, Jeffery D, and Luchen Li. *Critical Companion to John Steinbeck: A Literary Reference to his Life and Work*. Facts on File, 2005.

**When citing a source with no pagination (page numbers), such as many electronic sources**, you do not include a page number; indicate the paragraph number *only if it is given* (do not count yourself) preceded by the term "para."

8

"During the Enlightenment, the French philosopher René Descartes, a founder of modern science, declared that animals were 'soulless automatons'" (qtd. in deWaal).

Gallo explains that many new studies "reveal the need for science to use laboratory and natural world observation. . . ."

"There are newer tests to measure an animal's intelligence using more ethologically correct techniques" (Sloan, para. 3).

**When citing from a speech, song lyrics, interview, book jacket, and/or television**, you must introduce the nature of the source within the text of your paper.

9

Mrs. Lee asserts in her telephone interview, "Stress reduction techniques can be taught in schools. In France, for instance, schools currently have integrated breathing techniques and exercise breaks into their daily curriculum."

**When citing two works by the same author**, include the title of the work, properly italicized or in quotes, separated from the author's name by a comma.

10

There is clear condemnation of "This predilection for minding other people's business [which was] time-honored among the people of Salem . . ." (Miller, *Crucible* 5).

Willy Loman avoids home because "I've always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that all I've done is to waste my life" (Miller, *Death* 11).

**When citing several authors who have written on the same topic**, separate the citations with semicolons. Do not overuse this technique.

11

Several sources have addressed this aspect of gang warfare as a fight for survival, not just for turf (Rollins; Temple 61-65).

**Always remember that your parenthetical citations lead the reader to the appropriate entry on your Works Cited page.**