Laney College Library
MLA In-Text Citations (Parenthetical References)

In-Text Citations (Also known as Parenthetical References; Citing Sources in the Text; Parenthetical Documentation)

See Diana Hacker’s web site, Documenting Sources, and Joseph Gibaldi MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers for more details and examples on the above.

When you quote, summarize, or paraphrase an author’s words, and when you use facts not commonly known, use in-text citations to document your sources.

TYPICAL IN-TEXT CITATIONS

- When you refer to an author’s work, use text citations to document the source.
- Insert the author’s last name and year of the publication in parentheses.
- Your sentence determines if the citation occurs in the sentence, or at the end of the sentence.

EXAMPLE
One study of stress in the workplace (Hoffnagle, 2001) shows a correlation between . . .

- If a sentence includes the author’s name, give the year of publication immediately after the name, even if the page number falls at a different place in the sentence:

EXAMPLE
Romanovski found that “elbow-to-shoulder” distance is preferred (131).

- If same author is cited in two consecutive (one immediately after the other) sentences, first sentence include, name, year, and page/s if applicable. Second sentence includes year, or page number/s.

EXAMPLE
Pile of self-help materials tends to stress the mechanics of how to study, rather than management of one’s emotions to alleviate academic anxiety (Ottens, 1991). To test one’s proclivity toward academic anxiety, Ottens categorizes twenty signs of anxiety he has observed in his counseling sessions with students into four groups: patterns of anxiety-engendering mental activity, misdirected attention, physiological distress, and inappropriate behaviors (pp.4-7).

See http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s1.html


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