MLA Style A brief guide for Parenthetical Citation (in-text citation)

This MLA style guide has been designed for Marymount California University students who are writing for the Liberal Arts and Humanities. The proper use of a citation format such as MLA can help you avoid plagiarism.

Parenthetical citation or in-text citation within the text of your paper lets your reader know when you’ve used information from another source. A variety of parenthetical citation examples by type are listed below to assist you with citing your sources.

Establishing credibility with your readers as they read your work is crucial. Giving credit to scholars you’ve reference in your work demonstrates that you’ve done your research by finding reliable information.

**Remember:** Each parenthetical citation included in your text must be cited at the end of your paper in the Works Cited page.

Inquire at the Help Desk with one of the librarians for an MLA style manuals available at Marymount California University Library.

**BASIC PLACEMENT RULE**

1. The parentheses are usually placed at the end of a sentence, between the last word and the period. If you are quoting material directly, the parentheses should go between the closing quotation mark and the period:

>“Record deals were usually negotiated by elite businessmen” [Hennessey 127].

**Note:** Your reader should be able to turn to the Works Cited page and easily find the bibliographic information for this source.

It might be listed like this:

PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE: IN-TEXT CITATION

**Author’s Name in text: Direct Quotation**
A significant point, as Leopold writes, is that “adult quail begin to molt their plumage in mid-summer, while the chicks are being reared.” (427).

**Author’s Name in text: Paraphrase**
Spurgeon notes that the novel’s length requires a complex structure (360).

**Author’s Name in Citation: Direct Quotation**
Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

**Author’s Name in Citation: Paraphrase**
This point has already been argued that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance” (Robertson 136).

**Name of Author and a Book in Text**
In *The Awakening*, Rich argues, “It should be read in the broader context of the contemporaneous New Woman fiction movement in England” (72).

**Citing a work by multiple authors**

a) Arquilla and Ronfelt (1996) report that “the network form is on the rise in a big way, and because of this, societies are entering a new epoch” (43).

b) The authors state “Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment right” (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Credit: