

MLA Quick Guide: In-text

MLA (Modern Languages Association) has a specific in-text citation style. This style requires you to insert a brief reference ('citation') into your writing whenever you use a source. The in-text citation is made up of the source's author's surname and page number.

cost (Breen 273). However, Lee (216) reported a contrary result, along with other studies (Keen 48; Lee 132; Wojk 86-94, 112). This supports the contention that the original data was incomplete (Hillsdon 24) or, as Johnson and Hansen have stated, "seriously deficient" (97).

Where there are several authors, or no author, see the variations below.

Basic format - paraphrase (Author Page)

Include the author's surname (family name) and the page number where you found the information. The citation is placed either at the end of the sentence in the round brackets and before the full stop, or within a sentence.

... which is confirmed by one study (Breen 268).

← BASIC AUTHOR AND PAGE

... the study by Breen (268) confirmed these results. ← AUTHOR PROMINENT (FULL NAME IN SENTENCE 1ST TIME)

Basic format - quote (Author Page)

When you quote an author (i.e. use their exact words), you must put the quote in double quotation marks and provide the page number after the year.

It was described as "a stunning victory" (Harrison 15). ← QUOTE OR INFORMATION PROMINENT (SURNAME IN BRACKETS)

Harrison described it as "a stunning victory" (15). ← AUTHOR PROMINENT (SURNAME ONLY IN SENTENCE 2ND TIME CITED)

When quoting and there is no page number, use section or paragraph.

(Johnson "Introduction") ... (Kennett par. 12) ... ← SECTION OR PARAGRAPH TITLE, NO PAGE NUMBERS

No author ("Shortened Title" Page)

If there is no author, use a shortened version of the source title in quotation marks or italics.

... ("Impact of Global Warming" 36)

← ARTICLE TITLE

OR According to the *Style manual: For authors, editors and printers* (109) ...

← BOOK TITLE IN SENTENCE

Two authors with same surname (A. Author Page)

Given two authors with the same surname, include the authors' *first initial* in all citations. If they have the same first initial, use the authors' full names).

... which is confirmed by the most recent study (M. Smith 194). ← AUTHOR WITH INITIAL

... the study by Marian Smith (194) confirmed these results. ← AUTHOR WITH FIRST NAME IN SENTENCE

More than one publication with same author (Author "Shortened Title")

If there is more than one publication by the same author in the same year use lower case letters in alphabetical order to distinguish them.

... confirmed by the most recent study (Cromwell, "Justice Is Served"). ← SHORTENED TITLE IN QUOTATION MARKS

... the study by Cromwell ("Iron Side Enzymes") confirmed these results. ← SHORTENED TITLE

Two authors (Author and Author Page)

If there are two authors, use 'and' between the names if the citation is placed *at the end of a sentence in parentheses* and if the citation is made *within the text*.

(Roberts and Wallace 164) OR Roberts and Wallace (164) ... ← TWO AUTHORS

Three or more authors (Author et al. Page)

In your in-text citations, name the first author followed by 'et al.' (Latin abbreviation meaning 'and others') in all mentions. The same author's name plus 'et al.' will be used in the works cited list.

(Bennan-Jones et al. 56) OR Bennan-Jones et al. (56) ... ← THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Corporate authors (Organisation name Page or "Shortened Title")

If the author is a corporation or association, the name can be abbreviated to avoid interrupting the flow of reading. Often sources by corporate authors are found online, so page numbers may not be present.

(World Health Organisation "Individuals at Risk") OR World Health Organisation ("Individuals at Risk")
 INITIAL MENTION

(WHO) ← SUBSEQUENT CITATIONS USING ACRONYM

Two or more sources for one idea (Author Page; Author Page)

Two or more works by different authors within the same parenthesis are separated with a semicolon (";").

Studies by Keen (63); Lee (19); and Wojk (209) indicate that... ← AUTHOR PROMINENT

... along with other studies (Keen 63; Lee 19; Wojk 209). ← INFORMATION PROMINENT

Online sources

Online sources are treated no differently to other in-text citations. Identify by surname (if available) and page as per the 'Basic format' example, OR the shortened title and page (if no author) as per the 'No Author' example.

Legislation/Criminal Cases (Government or organisation)

For legislation or criminal cases, the formatting is the same as in the reference list.

- *Plaintiff v Defendant* [Year]. Series (if present). Law report. Page number. ← ORDERED ACCORDING TO YEAR
- *Plaintiff v Defendant* (Year). Volume. Law report. Page number. ← ORDERED BASED ON VOLUME NUMBER
- *Name of Stature Year* (Abbreviated form of parliament who passed the act), section number (subsection number)

Burger King Corp v Hungry Jack's Pty Ltd [2001] NSWCA 187 ← TITLE in CIVIL CASE LAW

Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) s 124(1) ← TITLE in STATUTES

Other helpsheets available

- MLA Quick Guide: Works Cited