

MLA RULES ON CITATION

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August 2016



MLA CHANGES . . .

- MLA just published the handbook's 8th edition and it has many changes. This guide provides the basic rules on how to do in-text citations.
- If you have questions, please feel free to talk to the librarian.



IN-TEXT CITATIONS



CITATION: GENERAL RULES

- When you have more than one author with the same last name, you write the name's initial first and then the last name
 - Example: (N. Surname xx)
- When you are using more than one source by the same person, you need to include a short version of the title
 - Example: (Surname, "Short version" xx-xx)
- When the bibliographic entry starts with the title of the source, the reference for the in-text citation needs to include the title. You can abbreviate the title in the parenthesis.
 - Example: ("Short version" xx)



CITATION: GENERAL RULES

- If the source numbers the paragraphs, use the paragraphs to indicate the location of quote.
 - Example: (Surname par. x)
- If the source has no page and it doesn't have numbered paragraphs, don't count the paragraphs. In this case don't include location.
 - Example: (Surname)
- When using literary works that have been published in different editions, it is better to include the chapter, act, scene, ext. depending on the type of literary piece, along with the page number.
 - Example (Surname xx; ch. x)



CITATION: GENERAL RULES

- When citing a segment of a video or audio, include the time.
 - Example: (Surname 00:03:10-17)
- When paraphrasing the ideas found in two or more sources, include their info in the parenthesis.
 - Example: Surname xx; Surname xx)
- When quoting poetry:
 - If you want to do it in the short direct quote style - use the dash (/) to separate each line.
 - If you are following the last verse of the stanza with the first verse of another stanza, use 2 dashes (//) between these two lines.
 - If the quote has four or more lines - It should use the long direct block, it should have the look it has in the text (with the different spacing) and the period goes before the parenthesis.



CITATION: GENERAL RULES

- When quoting from a play:
 - When citing dialogues, you need to put them in a block, use caps for the name of the character and use a period to separate the character's name from the dialogue.
- When citing a source by coauthors:
 - If it's two authors, include them both
 - Example: (Surname and Surname xx)
 - If it is three or more coauthors, just write the first last name followed by et.al.
- Short Direct Quote
 - Has four lines or less, uses quotation marks (“ ”) and the period goes after the parenthesis.
- Long Direct Quote
 - It has five lines or more, need to be separated from the text in a block and the period goes before the parenthesis.



IN-TEXT CITATION: EXAMPLE 1

Her fiction does not present black and white ideas; they present disturbing situations that “reveal Louisa May Alcott as a writer sensitive to the cultural and social currents of her time” thus reflecting the rise of feminism in the 19th century United States (Stern, “*A Double Life*” 10).

Bibliography:

Stern, Madeleine. “Introduction.” *A Double Life: Newly Discovered Thrillers of Louisa May Alcott*, Little, Brown and Company, 1988, pp. 3-29.



IN-TEXT CITATION: EXAMPLE 2

Syrian activists and human rights groups are asking Syrian government to stop using aircrafts “armed with thermite or phosphorus, which can cause horrific burns like those inflicted by napalm in American bombardments during the Vietnam War” (Barnard).

Bibliography:

Barnard, Anne. “Syrian Government and Russia Are Accused of Using Napalm-Like Bombs.” *The New York Times*, 17 Aug. 2016, http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/18/world/middleeast/syria-incendiary-bombs-napalm.html?ref=world&_r=0



IN-TEXT CITATION: EXAMPLE 3

The proof of Petruchio's absolute triumph is the speech Kate delivers at the end of the play in which she reminds Bianca and the widow:

KATHARINA. Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,

Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,

And for thy maintenance commits his body

To painful labour both by sea and land,

To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,

Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;

And craves no other tribute at thy hands

But love, fair looks and true obedience. (174; 5.2.146-53)

Bibliography:

Shakespeare, William. "The Taming of the Shrew." *The Riverside Shakespeare*, edited by Herschel Baker, 2nd ed., Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997, 138-175.



IN-TEXT CITATION: EXAMPLE 4

Once World War II ended, the United States lowered funding for the army, but this changed in 1950 with the start of the Korean War (“First Thermonuclear” 00: 25:00-11).

Bibliography:

“First Thermonuclear Device.” *Missiles of the Cold War*, segment 10, History

Education, 1997. *Learn 360*, <http://learn360.infobase.com/>

p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=43016&tScript=0#



WORK CONSULTED

MLA Handbook, 8th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Russell, Tony, et.al., contributors. “MLA Formatting and Style Guide.” *Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab*, 10 Aug. 2016,
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

