

MLA In-Text Citations

Rule 1: A normal citation includes the author's last name and the page number where the quote was found inside parentheses.

- "Quote" (Author's last name page number).
 - Period at end of sentence
 - Period does not go inside quotation even if the original quote includes a period.
- Example: "People are crazy" (Cyrus 3).

Rule 2: Citations are always followed by a period.

- The period always goes after the citation.
- Even if the original quote contains a period, you hold onto the period and wait to use it until after the citation.
- Example: "Live the life you have imagined" (Thoreau 1).
- If the quote contains multiple sentences, include periods where they originally are except with the last sentence.
- Example: "Spain is such a wonderful place. I love Madrid in particular. The city is full of so much energy" (Wilson 5).

Rule 3: Citations always come at the end of the sentence.

- Even if you keep writing your sentence after the quotation ends, the citation does not go until the end of the sentence.
- Example: "I wasn't taught how to read," claims Scout when arguing with Miss Caroline (Lee 22).

Rule 4: Other punctuation marks will stay inside the quotation marks and you will still have a period after the citation.

- Other punctuation such as question marks or exclamation marks are included inside the quotation mark, but you still need to remember to include a period after the citation.
- Example: "Where are you going?" asked Jimmy (Herber 15).
- Example: "What makes humans different than animals?" (Brown 4).

Rule 5: If you mention the author's name in your sentence, you do not need to include the author's name in your citation:

- Examples: Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).
- Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Rule 6: When paraphrasing, you still need to include a citation.

- Even if there are not any quotes in your sentence, if you reference information obtained from a source, you need to cite it.
- Examples: Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Rule 7: The citation includes the author's last name even if the author is not the speaker of the quote.

- When referencing a quote said by a character or another person, you should include the character or speaker's name in your sentence, but the MLA Citation will still include the author of the text's last name.
- Example: Prior refers to Currie's idea that "Deep reading is more important than decoding" (Prior 1).
- Example: Paul quotes Joyce Carol Oates, who says, "Reading allows us to get in another's skin" (Paul 2).
- Example: Scout says, "Atticus ain't got time to teach me anything" (Lee 22).

How to Format Different Text Types:

*** A note for your FATt sentences:

Short stories, poems, and articles are always in quotation marks

- Example: "Monkey's Paw" (short story)
- Example: "The Road Not Taken" (Poem)
- Example: "Reading Literature Makes Us Smarter and Nicer" (article)

Novels and plays are in italics or underlined when handwritten.

- Example: *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* (play)
- Example: *The Outsiders* (novel)

Rules for a Works Cited Page:

1. Your Works Cited Page will always begin with the words "Works Cited" in the top, center of the page.
2. Your list of sources will always be in alphabetical order.
3. The content of your citations should have a hanging indentation. You can accomplish this indentation by going to Format → Paragraph → Special/ Hanging Indent
4. You will not include multiple spaces between sources; the simple double-space setting will take of that for you.

Citation Rules for a Standard Book:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Examples:

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.