MLA In-Text Citation Cheat Sheet

Documentation

- *You may need to reference a variety of sources in your paper. It is essential in MLA that those references be parenthetically cited in the paper.*
- *MLA follows the "author-page" formatting style for parenthetical references to all sources—print and electronic. In the event that your source lacks an author, the citation will include a shortened version of the source's title and a page number.*
- *In the event that the author is mentioned in the signal phrase, the parenthetical reference will only contain the page number.*

Listed are some examples of parenthetical citations you may need to follow.

Citing Authors with Same Last Names:

"While I paced softly on the last sound I expected to hear in so still a region, a laugh, struck my ear" (C. Bronte 91).

"He raised his missile to hurl it; I commenced a soothing speech, but could not stay his hand: the stone struck my bonnet; and then ensued, from the stammering lips of the little fellow, a string of curses, which, whether he comprehended them or not, were delivered with practiced emphasis, and distorted his baby features into a shocking expression of malignity" (E. Bronte 85).

Citing Multiple Works by the Same Author:

MacDonald states that "The boy was dressed in a miner's dress, with a curious cap on his head" (*The Princess* 51).

"Hours after hours, a great many of them, went by; and still Diamond lay there" (MacDonald, *At the Back* 106).

Citing a Work by Two or Three Authors:

"During the mid-1940s Van Johnson was the cause of what Hedda Hopper termed the Bobby-Soxer Blitz" (Parish and Bowers 383).

Citing a Work by Four or More Authors:

"This chapter introduces and examines a model that is unfamiliar to many. The contemplative approach intentionally creates an environment that enables children to move at a slow pace, in relative quiet, so that they can reflect on a story from Scripture that helps them know who God is" (Carlson et al. 109).

Citing an Indirect Source:

Dewey developed a theory in which he identified five different stages of the reflective process: "(a) perplexity, confusion, and doubt, (b) a conjectural anticipation and tentative interpretation, (c) a careful examination and analysis to clarify the problem at hand, (d) a consequent

elaboration of the tentative hypothesis, and, (e) testing the hypothesis by doing something overtly to bring about the anticipated results" (qtd. in Hatcher and Bringle 155).

Citing a Source With No Author:

"Parents need to know that the vampire novel that started it all is sexier, more violent, and edgier than you probably remember. In one scene, sexually aggressive female vampires dance seductively for Jonathon" (*Common Sense Media 3*).

Sentence Structure

- *There are many ways to represent ideas that are not your own. The most common method is to directly quote the source, but it is also acceptable to paraphrase another's work or present a combination of paraphrasing and direct quotation. You may also introduce the author in the signal phrase to the quote instead of listing him/her in the parenthetical reference. (In that case, the author's name will not appear in the parenthetical reference; only the page number is necessary.)*
- *In a research paper, you may be presenting a fair amount of borrowed information. Because MLA encourages advanced writing, it is important to vary the structure by which you present this information. Some ways to do that are to, at times, mention the author in the signal phrase and also to paraphrase the author's original sentence.*

Remember:* ***ALL* borrowed information ***MUST*** be credited to its respective source, regardless of how it is presented in your paper.

Here are some examples of varied quote presentations.

Quote-Citation:

"Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water" (Jones 1).

Author in signal phrase before quote:

In his nursery rhyme, "Jack and Jill," Jones says, "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water" (1).

Paraphrased:

Jack and Jill headed out to retrieve some water (Jones 1).

Author in signal phrase before paraphrase:

According to Jones, Jack and Jill were on their way up the hill for water (1).

Below are a few more examples of varied quote presentations that appear in previous examples:

C. Bronte paints a rather eerie picture of the night: “While I paced softly on the last sound I expected to hear in so still a region, a laugh, struck my ear” (91).

E. Bronte describes the child as a holy terror whose child-like looks have been “distorted…into a shocking expression of malignity” (85).

According to Parish and Bowers, “During the mid-1940s Van Johnson was the cause of what Hedda Hopper termed the Bobby-Soxer Blitz” (383).

In their book, *Perspectives on Children’s Spiritual Formation,* Carlson et al. suggest a less familiar model designed to allow children sufficient time and quiet to “reflect on a story from Scripture that helps them know who God is” (109).