**In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations in MLA**

In-text citations (or parenthetical references) let the reader know which source you are referencing in each part of your paper. Think of them as a quick note, enclosed in **parentheses** usually **at the end of your sentence**, that refers readers to your Works Cited page for more information about where that quote or idea came from. They contain 2 basic parts—the **name** and the **location**. Follow the guidelines explained below. Notice that if the author’s name/title was already mentioned prior to the quote that you are citing (in the *same* sentence), you do not need to also include it in your citation.

**Name (author or title) Guidelines**

* Sources **with an author** must contain the author’s **last name**
  + For 2-3 authors, list all names (use the word “and” between 2 names and commas if listing 3)
  + For 4 or more authors, list only one author’s last name, then use “et al.” in place of the others
  + If your author is quoting someone else, “qtd. in” must be included before the name
* Sources **without an author** usually contain the **title** of the article or webpage, in **quotation marks**
  + Long titles can be shortened so that they end after the first noun (person, place, thing).

**Location (page number) Guidelines**

* If your source **has page numbers**, include the exact page number(s) where the quote can be found
  + Do not include the word “page” or any abbreviation of it, such as “p.” or “pg.” in the citation
  + Do not use any punctuation (such as a comma) between the name/title and the page number
* If your source **does not have page numbers** (web page), you usually will not need to add a number in your in-text citation at all.
  + Only include a paragraph or line number if the original source has numbered the paragraphs or lines for you. If this is the case, your in-text citation should contain the abbreviation *par.* or the word *lines* prior to the paragraph or line number.

**Examples - With an Author (Book or Article)**

Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

Studies show that “78% of today’s college students are sleep deprived” (Smith and Jones 76-77).

Instructors noted that “college students often do not take notes in class” (Smith, Jones, and Hill 52).

The study demonstrated that sleep deprivation “had a significant effect on exam scores” (Johnson et al. 36).

**Examples - Without an Author (Web Page)**

North America has “more readily accessible climatic data” (“Impact of Global”).

According to “Impact of Global Warming,” North America has “more readily accessible climactic data.”

**Example – Indirect Source (citing one author who is referencing another authors’ work)**

Ravitch argues that high schools are now pressured to serve as "social service centers" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

**\*\*Need help? The flow chart on the** [**next page**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/18462600) **will help you create each in-text citation.\*\***