

## Citing sources in your essays

In MLA style, writers place references to sources in their essays to briefly identify the source (avoiding plagiarism) and to enable readers to find the sources in the Works Cited list. These are called **in-text citations** or parenthetical references.

The information in the in-text citation corresponds with the first word for that entry in the works cited entry (usually the author's last name). This makes it really easy for the reader to find and match up information, which is the purpose of in-text citations.

In-text citations should be kept as brief and as clear as possible.

- Give only the information needed to identify a source, usually the author's last name and a page number.
- Place the in-text citation as close as possible to its source, preferably at the end of a sentence.
- No "page" or "pg." or "p.#" or any other variant is used to indicate the page number.
- No comma or other punctuation mark is needed to separate the author's name and the page number.
- End punctuation goes at the end of the citation, not at the end of the passage.
- Electronic and online sources are cited just like print resources in in-text citations. If an online source lacks page numbers, don't use numbers in the in-text citations. If an online source includes fixed page numbers, use numbers in the in-text citations.

### Examples:

<b>Author's name in text</b>	The trumpet player easily reached difficult notes, the F's and G's that hindered so many other trumpeters (Greene 258).
<b>Author's name in reference</b>	Greene explained, "The trumpet player easily reached difficult notes, the F's and G's that hindered so many other trumpeters" (258).
<b>Corporate authors</b>	(United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa 51-63)
<b>Works with no author</b> When a work has no author, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title when citing it in text. (If abbreviating a title, omit initial articles and begin with the word by which it is alphabetized in the Works Cited list.):	as stated by the presidential commission ( <i>Report 4</i> ).
<b>Works with no page numbers</b>	The car's speed was too fast(Schmid).
<b>Quotation from a secondary source</b>	According to Mary Grafton, "Learning

<p>Note: Create a work-cited entry for the secondary source in which you found the quote rather than for the original source (for this example, an entry for Deaver, not Grafton, could appear in the list of works cited).</p>	<p>MLA format can be tough, but like any skill, it just takes practice” (qtd. in Deaver 14).</p>
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