



PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS (MLA)

A quick guide to cite your text like a pro

ABOUT MLA PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

MLA parenthetical (in-text) citations must be formatted and written in a certain way.



In-text citations include the last name of the author followed by a space and page number, all enclosed in parentheses. There is no other punctuation or words in the citation.

"Here's a direct quote" (Antonacci 26).

WHAT IF I WANT TO PARAPHRASE?

Paraphrasing your evidence is recommended so you can get more information in. This is especially useful for longer works, such as plays and books.



However, you still need to provide MLA citations for paraphrased evidence!

This is a paraphrase ("I, Too" 4).

PARAPHRASING FROM ONE PAGE

Include an in-text citation with the author's name and page number. You are citing any ideas that aren't yours. For example:



The character of Beneatha Younger is pursuing a career towards becoming a doctor (Hansberry 39).

PARAPHRASING FROM MULTIPLE PAGES

If the paraphrased information is from more than one page, include those page numbers. For example:



Ruth and Walter Younger have a tumultuous relationship, which is evidenced by their argument over Walter's plan to start a liquor business in the opening scene (Hansberry 35-37).

GO TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR SOME FAQs!

How do I cite lines of poetry?

To denote different lines in poetry, you use a slash. For example:

"Ay, sí, / it's my turn / to oh say / what I see, / I'm going to sing America!" (Alvarez).

What if there is a question mark or exclamation point in my direct evidence?

Make sure you keep this punctuation in the citation! For example:

"What happens to a dream deferred? / Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun?" (Hughes).

How long can my direct quotes be?

Your direct quotes cannot span more than four lines on your document. Paraphrase information instead.

What if the author isn't listed?

If the author's name is not given, then use the first word or words of the title. For shorter works (articles, poems, short stories, songs, etc.), use quotation marks. Underline the title for longer works (plays, novels, movies, etc.).

What if it's a website without page numbers?

When you quote from electronic sources that do not provide page numbers (like web pages), cite the author's name only.