MLA Parenthetical Citations

Adapted from OWL @ Purdue University
Author-Page Style

In-text Example:

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

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

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Article with Unknown Author

In-text Example:
We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . .” (“Impact of Global Warming”).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:
Works by Multiple Authors

In-text Examples:

Smith and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith and Moore 76).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Multiple Works by the Same Author

In-text Examples:

Lightenor has argued that computers are not useful tools for small children ("Too Soon").

Early exposure to computer games does lead to better small motor skill development in a child's second and third year (Lightenor, "Hand-Eye Development").

Corresponding Works Cited Entries:


Citing Indirect Sources

In-text Example:
Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:
“In mighty battle we invoke Indra, Indra in lesser fight, the Friend who bends his bolt at fiends” (*Rig Veda*, Book 1, Hymn VII, Line 5).

**Corresponding Works Cited Entry:**


In-text Example:

“Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:30-31).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Multiple Citations

In-text Example:

... as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke; Dewey 21).
Separating Information and Your Ideas

In-text Example:

It has been argued that there is no foundation in the religion for Buddhists to oppose the use of birth control (Kinnard). Some might disagree with this statement because…

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

**In-Text Citations: In Summary**

- Parenthetical citations depend on the source’s entry in the Works Cited page - *if you change your Works Cited you might need to change your parenthetical citations!*

- If you use signal words in your text, you do not have to repeat them in your parenthetical citation - *but limit your use of signal words in this type of paper!*

- Whatever signal word you provide to your readers in the text or in your parenthetical citation, must be the FIRST THING that appears on the left-hand margin of the entry in the Works Cited list.

- Periods go OUTSIDE the parentheses - *don’t use a period at the end of your sentence ONLY AFTER your parentheses!*