



Academic Success Center
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

MLA-9 In-Text Citations

In addition to having a works cited or reference page, you must also cite the author in-text, following the quotation or paraphrased statement. If you are quoting directly from the text, be sure to include the page number or numbers that the work appeared on. For your convenience, we have included page numbers for the MLA Style Guide 9th Edition (MLA).

An in-text citation begins with the shortest piece of information that directs your reader to the entry in the works-cited list. Thus, it begins with whatever comes first in the entry: the author's name or the title/description of the work. The citation can appear in prose or in parentheses.

Work with one author (MLA 227-232)

If the works-cited-list entry begins with an author's name and you are citing the author in your prose, give the full name at first mention and the last name alone thereafter. If the entry includes the author's middle initial, you may omit it in your prose. When relevant, an in-text citation also has a second component: if a specific part of a work is quoted or paraphrased and the work includes a page number, line number, time stamp, or other indicator of the place in the work where the information can be found, that location marker must be included in parentheses.

Citation in prose:

Naomi Baron broke new ground on the subject. Although many scholars explored the influence of computers on reading habits, Baron's work helps us understand how reading will continue to evolve.

Parenthetical citation (last name only):

At least one researcher has broken new ground on the subject (Baron).

Work cited

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp 193-200.

Work with two authors (MLA 232)

If the entry in the works-cited list begins with the names of two authors, include both names in your citation. If you are mentioning the authors for the first time in your prose include both first names and last names. In a parenthetical citation, connect the two last names with *and*.

Citation in prose:

Others, like Jay Lemery and Paul Auerbach, note that doctors have not yet adequately explained the effects climate change will have on human health (4-5). Lemery and Auerbach's book focuses on the human, not the environmental, risks.

Parenthetical citation (last names only):

Others note that doctors have not yet adequately explained the effects climate change will have on human health (Lemery and Auerbach 4-5).

Work cited

Lemery, Jay, and Paul Auerbach. *Enviromedics: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2017.

Work with three or more authors (MLA 232-233)

If the source has three or more authors, the entry in the works-cited list begins with the first author's name followed by *et al.* If you refer to the coauthors in your prose rather than in a parenthetical citation, you may list all the names or provide the name of the first collaborator followed by "and others" or "and colleagues." In a parenthetical citation, list the last name of the first author and *et al.*

Citation in prose:

Raymond Nickerson and colleagues argue that the truth value of statements—their premises and conclusions—is one factor that affects how people are persuaded by arguments (135).

Parenthetical citation (last names only):

The authors argue that the truth value of statements—their premises and conclusions—is one factor that affects how people are persuaded by arguments (Nickerson et al. 135).

Work cited

Nickerson, Raymond S., et al. "Validity and Persuasiveness of Conditional Arguments." *The American Journal of Psychology*, vol. 132, no. 2, summer 2019, pp 131-147.

Work with corporate authors (MLA 233-234)

For concise citing, when a corporate author (i.e., an organization) is named in a parenthetical citation, shorten the name to the shortest noun phrase. For example, the American Historical Association consists entirely of a noun phrase (a noun, *association*, preceded by two modifiers) and would not be shortened. By contrast, the Modern Language Association of America can be shortened to its initial noun phrase, *Modern Language Association*. If possible, give the first noun and any preceding adjectives, while excluding any initial article: *a, an, the*.

Citation in prose:

According to a study by the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society, the "speed of warming is more than ten times that at the end of an ice age, the fastest known natural sustained change on a global scale" (9).

Parenthetical citation:

According to one study of climate change, the "speed of warming is more than ten times that at the end of an ice age, the fastest known natural sustained change on a global scale" (National Academy 9).

Work cited

National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society. *Climate Change: Evidence and Courses: Update 2020*. National Academies Press, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.17226/25733>. PDF download.

Work with no authors (MLA 237)

When an entry in the works-cited list has no author listed and begins with the title of the work instead, the title may appear in prose or in parentheses.

Citation in prose:

Reading at Risk notes that despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "the number of people doing creative writing—of and genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (3).

Parenthetical citation:

Despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "the number of people doing creative writing—of and genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (*Reading* 3).

Work cited

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004.