

MLA In-text Citations

From the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.)(2009). (For materials not covered in these examples, see pages 213-32.)

Citing an Entire Work, Including a Work with No Page Numbers: To cite an entire work, whether a print source or a web source that has no pagination or other type of reference markers—it is preferable to include in the text, rather than in a parenthetical reference, the name of the person (e.g., author, editor, director, performer) that begins the corresponding entry in the works cited list.

Fukuyama's *Our Posthuman Future* includes many examples of this trend.

Citing Part of a Work: If you quote, paraphrase, or otherwise use a specific passage in a book, an article, or another work, give the relevant page or section (e.g. paragraph) number or numbers. When the author's name is in your text, give only the number reference in parentheses, but if the text does not clearly identify the author, add the author's last name before the reference. Leave a space between them, but **do not** insert punctuation or, for a page reference, the word *page* or *pages* or the abbreviation *p.* or *pp.* If your source uses explicit paragraph numbers rather than page numbers—as, for example, some electronic publications do—give the relevant number or numbers preceded by the abbreviation *par.* or *pars.*

Between 1968 and 1988, television coverage of presidential elections changed dramatically (Hallin 5).

The cluster on literacy in the anthology by Lauter and his coeditors is a resource for teaching the place of oral cultures in postbellum America (155-66).

Litvak calls Winters's mumbling a "labor of disarticulation" (167).

Chan claims that "Eagleton has belittled the gains of postmodernism" (par. 41).

The Committee on Scholarly Editions provides an annotated bibliography on the theory of textual editing (sec. 4).

Citing Volume and Page Numbers of a Multivolume Work: When citing a volume number as well as a page reference for a multivolume work, separate the two by a colon and a space: "(Wellek 2: 1-10)." Use neither the words *volume* nor *page* nor their abbreviations. If you refer parenthetically to an entire volume of a multivolume work, there is no need to cite pages. Place a comma after the author's name and include the abbreviation *vol.*: "(Wellek, vol. 2)."

The anthology by Lauter and his coeditors contains both Stowe's "Sojourner Truth, the Libyan Sibyl" (B: 2601-09) and Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper" (C: 578-90).

Between 1945 and 1972, the political-party system in the United States underwent profound changes (Schlesinger, vol. 4).

Citing a Work Listed by Title: In a parenthetical reference to a work alphabetized by title in the list of works cited, the full title (if brief) or a shortened version precedes the page, paragraph, section, or reference number or numbers unless the title appears in your text. When shortening a title, begin with the word by which it is alphabetized in the Works Cited list entries. If you wish to cite a definition entry, give the relevant designation (e.g., number, letter) after the abbreviation *def.* (see the “Noon” example below).

The nine grades of mandarins were “distinguished by the color of the button on the hats of office” (“Mandarin”).

Even *Sixty Minutes* launched an attack on modern art, in a segment entitled “Yes...but is it Art?”

In winter the snowy owl feeds primarily on small rodents (“Snowy Owl,” *Hinterland*), but in spring it also feeds on the eggs of much larger waterfowl, such as geese and swans (“Snowy Owl,” *Arctic*).

Milton’s description of the moon at “her highest noon” signifies the “place of the moon at midnight” (“Noon,” *def.* 4b).

Voice of the Shuttle has links to many helpful resources.

Citing a Work by a Corporate Author: To cite a work by a corporate author, you may use the author’s name followed by a page reference: “(United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa 79-86).” It is better to include the long name in the text so that the reading is not interrupted with an extended parenthetical reference. When giving the name of a corporate author in parentheses, shorten terms that are commonly abbreviated (see 7.4): “(Nat’l Research Council 15.)”

In 1963, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa predicted that Africa would evolve into an advanced industrial economy within fifty years (1-2, 4-6).

Citing Two or More Works by the Same Author or Authors: In a parenthetical reference to one of two or more works by the same author, put a comma after the author’s last name and add the title of the work (if brief) or a shortened version and the relevant page reference: “(Frye, *Double Vision* 85)” or “(Durant and Durant, *Age* 214-48.)” If you state the author’s name in the text, give only the title and page reference in parentheses: “(*Double Vision* 85)” or “(*Age* 214-48).” If you include both the author’s name and the title in the text, indicate only the pertinent page number or numbers in parentheses: “(85)” or “(214-48).”

Shakespeare’s *King Lear* has been called a “comedy of the grotesque” (Frye, *Anatomy* 237).

For Northrop Frye, one’s death is not a unique experience, for “every moment we have lived through we have also died out of into another order” (*Double Vision* 85).

Hypertext, as one theorist puts it, is “all about connection, linkage, and affiliation” (Moulthrop, “You Say,” par. 19).

Citing Indirect Sources: If what you quote is itself a quotation, put the abbreviation *qtd.* before the indirect source you cite in your parenthetical reference.

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).

In Works Cited:

Boswell, James. *The Life of Johnson*. Ed. George Birkbeck Hill and L. F. Powell. 6 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1934-50. Print.

Citing Common Literature: In reference to a commonly studied prose work, such as a novel or play, that is available in several editions, it is helpful to provide more information than just a page number from the edition used; a chapter number, for example, would help readers to locate a quotation in any copy of a novel. In such a reference, give the page number first, add a semicolon, and then give other identifying information, using appropriate abbreviations: “(130; ch. 9)” or “(271; bk. 4, ch. 2).” (See 6.4.8.)

Citing more than One Work in a Single Parenthetical Reference: Cite each work as you normally would in a reference and use semicolons to separate the citations.

(Fukuyama 42; McRae 101-33)

(Nat'l Research Council 25-35; “U.S.’s Paulson”)

(*Guidelines*; Hallin 18-24)