



## MLA Citation: In-text Citations (MLA 9)

### Known Author and Page Number:

- The most common type of in-text citation you'll encounter is one where you'll have to use the last name of the author and the page number you're pulling your quote from. Here are three different ways to do this:

#### The sentence with the quote includes the author's name.

ex. Johnson recalled that Oscar Wilde stated "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (100).

#### The sentence with the quote but without the author's name.

ex. As a famous poet, he believed that everyone should "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (Johnson 100).

#### When summarizing the idea written by the author.

ex. Johnson believed that Wilde was famous for his beliefs about self expression (100).

**Speaking and Writing Center [1]:** Notice that there is no comma before the quote.

**Speaking and Writing Center [2]:** Notice that there is no punctuation between the author name and the page number. There is also no notation for page (i.e. "p"). Also note that the citation is after and outside the quotation marks and the period comes after the citation.

### No known Author:

- If your source does not have an author listed, use a shortened version of the source's title instead.
  - When studying Old English, readers may notice that the word order is "oddly unlike ours" ("Origins of the English Language").

**Speaking and Writing Center [3]:** If the original title of the source is long, you should shorten the title in your parenthetical citation. You can omit articles (such as "the" or "a") from the beginning of the title, and you only need to include enough words to distinguish the citation from others in your works cited page. This is usually just the first few main words. Also, note that the title is formatted the same way that it is in your works cited entry. So if the title of your source is in quotation marks in your works cited entry, it should also appear in quotation marks in the parenthetical citation. If it is italicized in your works cited entry, you should italicize it in the parenthetical.

### Two Authors:

- Like with a single author, either use the authors' last names in the sentence, or include them in a parenthetical citation.
  - Takolander and Langdon argue that magical realism is an "ironic narrative strategy" (42).
  - Magical realism can be understood as an "ironic narrative strategy" (Takolander and Langdon 42).

**Speaking and Writing Center [4]:** MLA format always writes out the word "and."



### Three or more authors:

- Use only the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the page number.
  - "Marjorie's 'body' (and soul upon death) are connected to Africa in the same manner that a baby is connected to (and nourished by) its mother" (Motahane et al, 28).

**Speaking and Writing Center [5]:** Notice that the period is placed after "al" but there should never be a period placed after "et"

### Multiple works by the same author

- If you mention the author's name in the sentence, your parenthetical citation should omit the author, include the title (shortened if needed), and include the page number.
  - Fitzgerald's first novel ends with "I know myself...but that is all" (*This Side of Paradise* 287). Later in his career, Fitzgerald ends *The Great Gatsby* with similar ambivalence, concluding, "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" (189).
- If you do not mention the author's name in the sentence, your citation should include the author's last name, the title (shortened if needed), and the page number.
  - Amory concludes, "I know myself...but that is all"(Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise* 287). Nick ends with a similar ambivalence, saying "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" (Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* 189).

**Speaking and Writing Center [6]:** Note that the titles of larger, stand-alone works, like books, plays, and films, should be italicized.

**Speaking and Writing Center [7]:** Here, because the author name and the title of the book were mentioned in the sentence, only the page number is placed in the citation.

**Speaking and Writing Center [8]:** Notice that author name and title of book are separated with a comma but that there is no comma between the book title and the page number.

### Multiple sources in the same sentence

- If you use multiple different sources in the same sentence, your citations should be separated by a semicolon.
  - In Old English, "Nouns, adjectives, and even the definite article" were gendered while modern English "only [retains] relics of that on the pronoun system" ("Origins of the English Language"; "Tracing Languages").
  - Magical realism, a term first coined in 1925 in relation to Post-Expressionist art, can be understood as an "ironic narrative strategy" (Reeds 175; Takolander and Langdon 42).

**Speaking and Writing Center [9]:** This example uses electronic sources with no known authors and no page numbers, so titles are used in place of the author's name and the page number is omitted.

**Speaking and Writing Center [10]:** Note that you should list your citations in the order that the sources are referenced in the sentence. This is a print source, so page numbers were available to be included.