MLA 9th Edition In-Text Citations — Quick Reference

MLA has specific rules for referencing works within a text. Quotations, as well as paraphrases and summaries, must be referenced and cited. Each work referenced in a text must have a corresponding entry in the works-cited list. Ways to incorporate a quotation are:
1. Use the raw quotation
2. Begin with a simple introductory phrase
3. Incorporate the quotation into the sentence

One Author

In-text example	The main character is a deceased infant that haunts the house. Denver observes, "For a baby she throws a powerful spell" (Morrison 5).
Works Cited page	Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1987.

Two Authors

In-text example	*The Multitasking Mind* points out that "driving is not as automatic as one might think; in fact, it imposes a heavy procedural workload on cognition" (Salvucci and Taatgen 107).
Citation	Salvucci, Dario D., and Niels A. Taatgen. *The Multitasking Mind*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Three or More Authors

In-text example	In *Writing New Media,* Anne Wysocki and others created chapters that mix theory and practice with activities based on their rationale (6). OR *Writing New Media* has chapters that mix theory and practice with activities based on the authors' rationale (Wysocki et al. 6).
Works Cited page	Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

Work from an Anthology

In-text example	In his essay "Nature," Ralph Waldo Emerson begins by stating, "Our age is retrospective" (1041).
Works Cited page	Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Nature." *Anthology of American Literature,* edited by George McMichael, 4th ed., vol. 1, Rinehart, 1952, pp. 1041–67.

Article in a Scholarly Journal

In-text example	As international students adapt to new environments and adjust to the unfamiliar social, cultural, and educational systems, they experience acculturation (Berry 697).
Works Cited page	Berry, John W. "Acculturation: Living Successfully in the Two Cultures." *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, vol. 29, no. 6, Nov. 2005, pp. 697–712.

Article from a Database

In-text example	In her review, Sarah Edwards explains, "Stoneman's book has a straightforward structure" (620).
Works Cited page	Edwards, Sarah. "Charlotte Brontë." *Women's Writing*, vol. 21, no. 4, Oct. 2014, pp. 620–23. *Literary Reference Center*, https://doi.org/10.1080/09699082.2014.913857.

YouTube Video

In-text example	Voice and speech coach Andrea Caban begins with an easy exercise such as blowing through one's lips ("Articulator Exercises").
Works Cited page	"Articulator Exercises: Accent Training." *YouTube*, uploaded by Howcast, 19 July 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=O86VWsXt-M4.

Web Page with a Title

In-text example	Unfortunately, "[o]nly people with type 2 diabetes can use pills to manage their diabetes, [but] people with type 1 diabetes must use insulin," according to the American Diabetes Association ("Can Diabetes Pills Help Me").
Works Cited page	"Can Diabetes Pills Help Me?" *American Diabetes Association*, 3 Mar. 2015, www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/treatment-and-care/medication/oral-medications/can-diabetes-pills-help-me.html.
In-text example	The fact remains that "two in five Americans do not get the recommended seven or more hours of sleep a night" ("1 in 3 Adults").
Works Cited page	"1 in 3 Adults Don't Get Enough Sleep: A Good Night's Sleep Is Critical for Good Health." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 18 Feb. 2016, www.cdc.gov/media/release/2016/pO@15-sleep.html.

Shortening Titles in In-Text Citations:

In parenthetical citations, short titles may be given in full; otherwise, shorten titles by following the steps below.

1) Drop any initial article (a/an/the). *The Shining* shortens to *Shining*.
2) If a title consists of a noun phrase, do not shorten (except as above). *West Side Story* is not shortened; *The Third Man* shortens to *Third Man.*
3) If a title begins with a noun or noun phrase, shorten to the noun or noun phrase. *The Best Years of Our Lives* shortens to *Best Years*; "Flu: What to Do If You Get Sick." shortens to "Flu".
4) If a title does not begin with a noun or noun phrase, stop at the first punctuation mark or at the end of the first phrase or clause. "How to Select Beekeeping Supplies" shortens to "How to Select".

Paragraph Example -- How to Reference One, Two, or Three (or more) Authors

      According to **Ima Geek and others**, as graduating seniors are making choices regarding the next step in life, there are new changes that will influence the decision **(87)**. Others have emphasized, "The COVID-19 pandemic has created an online catalog of new educational choices" **(Writer and Learner 18)**. Now, a student can enroll and participate in various universities, community colleges, or trade-school certifications without having the added expense of relocating, commuting, or housing quandaries (**Learner 17**). With access to an electronic device and a strong Wi-Fi, education can become as simple as "enter."

One Author: **Learner, Bee A.** "My Future's ahead of Me." *Educational Newspaper*, 25 Apr. 2020, p. 17.
Two Authors**: Writer, Shesa, and Bee A. Learner**. "The Future Is Bright." *Educational Newspaper*, 26 Apr. 2020, p. 18.
Three or more authors: **Geek, Ima, et al**. "Our Future Is in Our Hands." *Educational Newspaper*, 30 Apr. 2020, p. 87.
[Bold font used for emphasis. DO NOT use bold font in an essay.]

Works Cited

Geek, Ima, et al. "Our Future Is in Our Hands." *Educational Newspaper*, 30 Apr. 2020, p. 87.

Learner, Bee A. "My Future's ahead of Me." *Educational Newspaper*, 25 Apr. 2020, p. 17.

Writer, Shesa, and Bee A. Learner. "The Future Is Bright." *Educational Newspaper*, 26 Apr. 2020,

    p. 17.