MLA Citation Guide: 8th Edition!

Use sources to demonstrate your research and strengthen your words and arguments. For a sample paper and detailed information on the MLA format see the Purdue OWL website at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/MLA_style_introduction.html!

YOUR IN-TEXT CITATIONS – SHORT CITATIONS INSIDE YOUR PAPER!

In-Text citations are found after a direct quote or a paraphrase, in the body of your work. MLA STYLE puts the author and page number in parentheses each time you use information from a source.

MLA in-text citations have two components:
- The first word found in the full citation on the Works Cited page (usually the last name of the author)
- The location of the direct quote or paraphrase (usually a page number)

In-Text citations should be placed directly after a quote or paraphrase, or in a place that is a natural pause and does not cause the reader to become distracted while reading.

EXAMPLE: Scientists are still learning about the social characteristics of dolphins (Würsig and Pearson 77), and “whether dolphins possess or are capable of acquiring language” (Lammers and Oswald 109).

You can also use the author’s name in the sentence, and put the page number in the parentheses.

EXAMPLE: According to Würsig and Pearson, scientists are still learning about the social characteristics of dolphins (77).

YOUR WORKS CITED PAGE – FULL CITATION ENTRIES AT THE END OF YOUR PAPER!

Each In-Text citation points to longer, full citations that MLA STYLE puts at the end on your paper on a page titled “Works Cited,” arranged alphabetically by author’s last name in the format shown below.

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Guide adapted from MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th ed., 2016; Updated 12/4/18
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(adapted from MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th ed., 2016); Guide Updated 12/4/18