

MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics

There are 2 common reasons to provide in-text citations to your reader. They are:

When you are directly quoting someone:

If you are directly quoting from a work, you will need to include the author and the page number for the reference. Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the date of publication in parentheses.

- According to Jones, "Students often had difficulty using MLA style, especially when it was their first time" (199).

If the author is not named in a signal phrase, place the author's last name and the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

- She stated, "Students often had difficulty using MLA style" (Jones 199), but she did not offer an explanation as to why.

When you are summarizing or paraphrasing another's words:

If you are paraphrasing an idea from another work, make reference to the author and the page number.

- MLA style can be a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones 199).

An In-Text Citation on a Work by Two Authors:

Name both authors in the signal phrase or in the parentheses each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text and use the ampersand in the parentheses.

- Research by Wegener and Petty (22-24) supports...
OR
- Recent research supports the hypothesis that....(Wegener & Petty 22-24)

For more information and examples see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>