

**MLA in-text citations give credit to original authors, help readers trace your sources, and strengthen your credibility as a writer.**

### SETUP

When introducing a source, briefly explain the author's expertise or why the source is relevant to your point. This setup adds context and strengthens your argument.

Example: **Education expert Dr. Sarah Brown** claims that "technology, when used thoughtfully, can enhance student engagement" (Lee 15).

### FORMAT

In MLA, in-text citations include the author's last name and page number, placed before the period.

Example: Studies show that sleep improves memory retention (**Walid 45**).

Example: Researcher Ahmad **Walid**'s studies show that sleep improves retention (**45**).

### RELEVANCE

Always explain why the source is relevant and how it supports your argument.

Example: Education expert Dr. Sarah Brown highlights that "technology, when used thoughtfully, can enhance student engagement" (Lee 15). **This insight supports the view that digital tools are beneficial when paired with effective teaching strategies.**

### Tips for Smooth Citation Integration

- **Punctuation:** Always place citations before punctuation at the end of a sentence.
- **Direct Quotes:** Use quotation marks for direct quotes, followed by the citation.
  - Example: Researchers confirm, "Climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented rate" (Yu 22).
- **Paraphrasing:** Even when rephrasing, cite the source to credit the original ideas.
- **No Page Numbers:** If the source doesn't have page numbers, include only the author's last name.
  - Example: High medical costs push 1.5 million U.S. families into poverty each year (Woolhandler).

## Summaries and Paraphrases

**Make sure the sentence structure is not the same as the original source and that you include a citation. Remember - *any idea that is not your own must be cited!***

### Paraphrase Example:

In 2018, Dr. Christopher Rhodes published an article in the journal *Science Progress*, and he warned that while the research investigating microplastics pollution is in its infancy, it would be irreversibly harmful to ignore the issue (252).

Notice that in the example above, the student offers their own brief paraphrase of the idea and follows up with a parenthetical citation.

## Signal Phrases

**Signal phrases introduce sources, providing context and enhancing credibility.**

Example: Dr. Lee **disputes** the “idea that universal healthcare would increase costs, arguing instead that it reduces long-term expenses” (63).

- asserts
- suggests
- emphasizes
- disputes
- concedes
- insists
- illustrates
- observes
- explains
- implies
- reveals
- wonders

## Direct Quote MLA Style Examples

### Method One: Signal Phrase and Comma

Researchers warn, “The amount of plastic actually detected in the oceans represents only a small fraction of this, and less than 1% of the total mass of plastics reckoned to have been released into the oceans over time” (Rodriguez et al. 244).

### Method Two: Sentence with a Colon

Dr. Valerie Black argues that we must engage in “system thinking” to address the rising concerns of microplastics pollution: “Since the majority of the global population lives in towns and cities, it will be necessary to incorporate integrated (‘systems’) design approaches such as permaculture, and the circular economy within the existing urban infrastructure” (253).

### Method Three: Embedded in a sentence

Dr. Christopher Rhodes acknowledges that because there is a lack of research, the facts surrounding microplastics are still inconclusive, but he warns that “the prevailing evidence indicates that a major problem may very likely exist, whose consequences could prove catastrophic if it is ignored” (252).

## Basics of Parenthetical Citations

**If the author is named in the sentence, include the page number in the parenthetical citation:**

In *The Wretched of the Earth*, Frantz Fanon tells us that "each generation must out of relative obscurity discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it" (206).

**If the author is not named in the sentence, include the author's last name and page number in the parenthetical citation:**

Brett says, "He wanted me to grow my hair out. Me, with long hair. I'd look so like hell" (Hemingway 246).

**If there's no page number in the source, simply include the author's last name in the parenthetical citation:**

Chika reveals her own ingrained biases when she assumes the woman's "mind is not occupied with questioning abstract ideologies" (Adichie).

**If the direct quotes are from separate pages, include a parenthetical citation after each direct quote:**

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263) and that it can offer "enjoyments, of a purer, more lasting, and more exquisite nature" (265).

**If there are two authors, include both last names separated by "and." For sources with three or more authors, use the first author's last name followed by "et al." (which means "and others").**

Example with two authors: (Smith and Johnson 32)

Example with three or more authors: (Jones et al. 60)

**If it is a block quote (quotes longer than four lines of prose), indent the entire quote 0.5 inches from the left margin and omit the quotation marks. The parenthetical citation comes after the punctuation at the end of the quote.**

Alaei 7

Azoulay tells us, that this a contract that binds together photographers, photographed persons, and spectators. She argues that:

When and where the subject of the photograph is a person who has suffered some form of injury, a viewing of the photograph that reconstructs the photographic situation and allows a reading of the injury inflicted on others becomes a civic skill, not an exercise in aesthetic appreciation...The civil spectator has a duty to employ that skill the day she encounters photographs of those injuries – to employ it in order to negotiate the manner in which she and the photographed are ruled. (Azoulay 14)

This positioning of civil spectator and refusal to aestheticize the ethical implications of the encounter with the photo extend to video formats, too. Participating in creative virtual activism to amplify narratives of civil disobedience from the positionality of a

## Summary

A summary condenses the main ideas of a text into your own words, offering a broader overview rather than focusing on specific details. Summaries are much shorter than the original text and require MLA in-text citations just like paraphrases and quotes.

Steps to Write a Summary:

- Identify the key points or arguments from the source.
- Condense these ideas, omitting less important details.
- Rewrite the ideas in your own words.
- Cite the source with an in-text citation.

## Paraphrase

Paraphrasing involves restating a passage from a source in your own words while maintaining the original meaning. It's useful when you want to incorporate detailed information without quoting directly.

Steps to Paraphrase:

- Read the passage carefully, ensuring full comprehension.
- Rewrite it in your own words without changing its meaning.
- Compare your version to the original to avoid copying the wording too closely.
- Always include an MLA citation.

## Direct Quote

Direct quotes are used when the exact wording of the source is important to your argument. Quotes should always be introduced in a way that integrates them smoothly into your writing, and they should be accompanied by an in-text citation.

Steps for a Short Quote (fewer than 4 lines):

- Copy the text exactly, placing it in quotation marks.
- Cite the source using an MLA in-text citation (see the next page of this handout).
- Integrate the quote into your sentence, ensuring it flows logically with your argument.

Steps for a Long Quote (more than 4 lines):

- Indent the entire quote one inch from the left margin.
- Do not use quotation marks.
- Place the in-text citation after the period.