

Parenthetical Citations and Quotations

in MLA Format

MLA	TITLE
3.6	Titles of Works in the Research Paper
3.7	Quotations
5.5.4	A work/book by two or more authors
6.2	Information Required in Parenthetical Documentation
6.4	Sample Parenthetical Documentation References

MLA References for quoting and citing

- Foster Hirsch, a professor of film at Brooklyn College, writes, “A genre, after all, is determined by conventions of narrative structure” (72).
 - Note signal phrase precedes the quote.
 - Note the quotation marks.
 - Note that the author is named and identified
 - Note the parenthetical citation and the punctuation.

3.7.2 Prose

- Foster Hirsch, a professor of film at Brooklyn College, asserts that unlike the straightforward gangster film, “film noir introduces a narrative method that, by contrast, is sinuous, oblique, often deliberately confusing” (72).
 - Signal phrase introduces quote
 - Present context
 - Parenthetical citation

3.7.2 Prose (continued)

- If a quotation extends to more than 4 lines when run into the text, set the quotation off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks.

3.7.2 Prose (continued)

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

Example: Long Quotation



Using Ellipsis

MLA 3.7.5

- When you omit a word, phrase, sentence, or more from a quoted passage, you must be fair to the author being quoted and to the grammar of the sentence.
- Never present a quote in a way that alters the author's meaning or intention.
- Use ellipsis points to indicate the omission of language from the original text.
- An ellipsis is three periods with a space before each and a space after the last.

3.7.5 Ellipsis

- Original:
- According to Foster Hirsch, a professor of film at Brooklyn College, “The elusiveness and ambiguity that mark noir characterization, the cunning masquerades, the skillful performances that often frustrate the unwary anti-heroes, are all underlined by the genre's use of plots of labyrinthine complexity” (72).
- With ellipsis points:
- According to Foster Hirsch, a professor of film at Brooklyn College, “The elusiveness and ambiguity that mark noir **characterization . . .** **are** all underlined by the genre's use of plots of labyrinthine complexity” (72).

3.7.5 Ellipsis--Example

- When the ellipsis ends your sentence followed by the parenthetical citation, use three periods with a space before each, and place the sentence period after the final parenthesis.
 - Hirsch contends that “noir offered many opportunities for the character actor” (157).

3.7.5 Ellipsis



PUNCTUATION WITH QUOTATIONS

MLA 3.7.7

- When a question mark or an exclamation point is **part of the work being quoted**, the punctuation remains inside the quotation marks.
 - **Original:** I believe taxation without representation is tyranny!
 - He declared, "I believe taxation without representation is tyranny!" (7).
- The same rule applies to questions.

Question marks and exclamation points

- Commas and periods that directly follow quotations **GO INSIDE** the closing quotation marks
 - According to Lowell in “Medical Applications,” there is considerable work ahead . . .
- A parenthetical reference should intervene between the quotation and the required punctuation.
- If a quotation ends with a period, the period appears after the reference.
 - Clayton contends, “American democracy has survived past periods of **incivility**” (358).

Punctuation 3.7.7



Citing a Work by Two or More Authors

MLA 5.5.4

- To cite a book by two or three authors, **give their names** in the same order as on the title page.
- In the **works cited**, reverse ONLY the name of the first author, add a comma, and give the other name(s) in full.
 - Lee, Matt, and Ted Lee. [authors]
 - Rosa, Alfred, and Paul Eschholz, eds. [editors]

Two or Three Authors (5.5.4)

- If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add *et al.* (“and others”).
- Or, you may give all names in full in the order they appear on the title page.

More than three authors (5.5.4)

- According to authors Ingo Plag, Maria Braun, Abine Lappe, and Mareile Schramm in *Introduction to English Linguistics* . . .
- **OR**
- According to authors Ingo Plag, et al. in *Introduction to English Linguistics* . . .

More than 3 authors in the essay
5.5.4

Plag, Ingo, et al. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton, 2007. Print.

OR

Plag, Ingo, Maria Braun, Sabine Lappe, and Mareile Schram. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton, 2007. Print.

**More than 3 authors in the
Works Cited (5.5.4)**



MLA Parenthetical Documentation

MLA Chapter 6

- The first time you use a source in your essay or paper, **ALWAYS** introduce the author by his or her **full name** and the **complete title** of the work being cited.
- Introduce the title of the work once.
- After the initial introduction of the author and the source, present the author by his or her last name in any further references to the source.
- **NEVER** refer to any author by his or her first name.

Introducing the source

Deane Mansfield-Kelley and Lois A. Marchino in *The Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction* explain that “the amateur detective story is the oldest form of the genre” (25).

- Authors’ names are used in the signal phrase.
- Parenthetical citation contains the page number only.

**Author named in signal phrase
(6.3)**

Our authors further explain the structure of the amateur detective story: “The emphasis is on elaborate and challenging plots filled with false clues, a number of likely suspects, and a murderer who fools everyone but the talented amateur sleuth (Mansfield-Kelley and Marchino 27).

- Note the parenthetical citation
- Note the punctuation.

Author NOT named in signal phrase (6.3)



MLA 6.4.7 Citing Indirect Sources

- When possible use material from the original source.
- However, when an indirect source [someone quoted by the source] is all that's available, use the abbreviation *qtd. in.*
 - According to philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, "the vanity of existence is revealed in the whole form of existence . . ." (qtd. in Sanders 94).

6.4.7 Citing Indirect Sources



Alternate way that avoids using “qtd. in”

- There is an alternative way to present indirect information in your papers.
 - The author of the source is noted in the signal phrase.
 - You acknowledge both the author of the source and the author the source is quoting.

In his discussion, **Sanders notes** that according to philosopher **Arthur Schopenhauer**, “the vanity of existence is revealed in the whole form of existence . . . ” (94).

- Note the parenthetical citation.
- Note the punctuation

Alternate Method w/o “qtd. in”



Citing Electronic Sources

- **Always use the PDF version** if it is available.
 - PDF has the page numbers for citing.
- If using the HTML version because there is no PDF, whether you use the author's name in the signal phrase or not, **put the author's last name in the parenthetical.**
 - The citation marks the end of borrowed ideas.
- Cite the non-paginated source as follows:
 - According to critic Michael Pettengell, "Hammett and other hard-boilers were interested in social matters . . ." (Pettengell).

Use the PDF Version

