PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS (MLA)

Parenthetical citations are additions made to a quote or paraphrase to let the audience know where the quoted or paraphrased material originates.

Oftentimes, parenthetical citations are found enclosed in parentheses marks [e.g. ( )].

When you use a secondary source (e.g. a book, an article from a journal, a website) to form a quote or paraphrase, it is necessary to include a parenthetical citation with the quoted/paraphrased/summarized material.

EX:
One artist acknowledged that "Comedy is a way of life" (Sheldon 127).

Notice how the citation (located after the quoted material) has both the *last name of the author* and *the page number* where the secondary source material is found.

NON-LITERARY DOCUMENTS

SINGLE AUTHOR
When the Author is named (or provided) before the quote, only the page number is needed.

EX:
Professor Michael Gutierrez suggests "Plasmids may hold the foundation to unlocking and defeating all forms of bacterial" (56).

However, if the author is not named before the quote, then the author's name and page number should be included in the parenthetical citation.

EX:
One professor suggests "Plasmids may hold the foundation to unlocking and defeating all forms of bacteria" (Gutierrez 56).

Notice how the author's last name is included with the page number in the parenthetical citation.

TWO AUTHORS
When two authors are provided, the rules above apply. However, you should use both of the author's last names with the conjunction AND between them.

EX:
According to the biography, "Hemingway was a large, portly man" (Jackson and Porter 227).

MULTIPLE AUTHORS
When more than two authors are provided, the rules above apply. However, you should write out up to three last names.

EX:
The work claims that "Firefighting is becoming progressively safer because of the different fire-retardant materials being developed" (Stern, Hancock, and Foley 65).

If there are more than three authors, the rules above apply. However, you should write the term et al. (which means "and others") following the last name of the first listed author.

EX:
Jacque Derrida was one of the most influential deconstructionists of our time (Hall, et al. 158).

NO AUTHOR
When no author is found, it is necessary to use a short (or condensed) version of the title.

EX:
One scholar suggests, "Eli Whitney created a few other novel devices in his time" ("Beyond the Gin" 74).

Note: There is no author for this source; there is only a title.

NO PAGE NUMBERS
When no page numbers can be found, it is necessary to put only the author's last name before or after your secondary source material.

EX:
Bloom states, "Technology is one of the most complicated entities"
-OR-
One source states, "Technology is one of the most complicated entities" (Bloom).

If no author is found as well, it is necessary to put a short (or condensed) version of the title.

EX:
One source states "People never give enough... I'm talking about philanthropy" ("Donating Time").

MORE THAN ONE WORK BY THE SAME AUTHOR
When writing contains multiple works by the same author, you must use the author's last name, include a short version of the title of the work used, and the page number (if applicable).

EX:

Electronic cars are becoming more and more prevalent, yet many different types of fuel have been considered. One author suggests, "I remember when ethanol was a consideration" (Johnson, "Ethanol" 57). In a different work, the author claims "Ethanol was just not as reliable in terms of mileage, nor was it economic when paired to its value to the food chain" (Johnson, "Food or Fuel" 321).

INDIRECT SOURCE
When you use a quotation which appears in another work, it is customary to list the original author's name in front of the quote and the abbreviation qtd. in ("quoted in") followed by the source named in your bibliography (or "Works Cited").

EX:

Jameson shows that "There is no denial involved in being caught red-handed" (qtd in. Henry 45).

Note that Jameson is the original author of the quote, yet the quote appears in a document written or collected by Henry.

TWO OR MORE WORKS IN THE SAME CITATION
When using two or more works in the same paraphrase, you should use conventional citations with a semi-colon to separate them.

EX:

The environmental impact of such damage has yet to be assessed. We may be looking at a complete loss (Kittridge 65; Davison 227).

LITERATURE (OR LITERARY DOCUMENTS)

When using literary texts, it is customary (not always necessary) to reference the particular lines and or part/chapters of the text.

EX: (FOR NOVELS)

Twain's remarks were initially positive to say the least, "We had a fine supper, of the freshest meats and fowls and vegetables--a great variety and as great abundance" (63; ch. 18).

EX: (FOR POETRY)
We can tell about Ehrmann's disposition by recanting his words, "Avoid loud and aggressive people, they are vexations to the spirit/If you compare yourself to others you may become vain or bitter/There will always be people greater and lesser than yourself" (5-7).

EX: (FOR LONGER FORMS OF POETRY AND PLAYS)
One can sense Benvolio's hesitation when he states, "--- The day is hot, the Capulets abroad, And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl; For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring" (Shakespeare 684; 3.1.2).

Notice how the information for this play is listed as
page number; act. scene. line. And, note that all of the information for the source is enclosed in parentheses.

<u>BIBLICAL OR SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES</u>
When using religious texts, it is customary (not always necessary) to reference the particular chapters and verses which contain the secondary source material.

EX:

An interesting maxim can be found here: "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good" (Prov. 19.8)

-OR-

Buddhists are very specific about violence "Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill" (Evil. 131).