

Examples of In-Text Citations in MLA

A source with one, two, or three authors

Koko is considered an exceptional ape (Smith 25).

Patterson and Linden agree that the gorilla Koko acquired language more slowly than a normal speaking child (83).

As it turned out, Koko acquired language more slowly than a normal speaking child (Patterson and Linden 83).

*[Note: Include **both names** or **all three names** either in your text or in parentheses.]*

A source with more than three authors

Despite the short-term devastation nuclear war would cause, many scientists fear that “the disruption of the global ecosystem” would ravage human life for centuries (Turco et al. 37).

[Note: Include the first author’s last name, the abbreviation “et al.” and the page number.]

Source with a corporate or anonymous author

In 1992 it was apparent that the American health care system, though impressive in many ways, needed “to be fixed and perhaps radically modified” (Public Agenda Foundation 4).

According to a study sponsored by the National Research Council, the population of China around 1990 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).

[Note: Cite by the full corporate name, where possible including that name in your own text as introductory material. In that case, only a page number is needed in parentheses. When giving the name of a corporate author in parentheses, shorten terms that are commonly abbreviated.]

A quote of a quote found in your source (in other words, an indirect source)

Sir Bernard Lovell notes that overly narrow and regimented computerized research in astronomy is damaging to “the free exercise of that happy faculty known as serendipity” (qtd. in Roszak 115).

[Note: Include “qtd. in” (“quoted in”) before the name of your source.]

Media Source

Cinematographer Nestor Almendros does some of his finest work in capturing the rural Texas landscapes in Places in the Heart.

[Note: Cite either the title or the name of the person chiefly responsible for that work (or both), depending upon your own emphasis.]

Interview information – Use an appropriate signal phrase, e.g., “According to,” to incorporate information gathered in an interview. If the person you interviewed is not widely known, explain his or her credentials in your essay. Following the paraphrased or quoted material, use a transitional phrase to indicate you are no longer referring to the interview information:

According to psychologist George Adams, post-traumatic stress disorder afflicts a large number of war veterans. However, many experts question this opinion.

Electronic Sources

Give enough information to direct readers to the works cited page (MLA Style). The author or organization of the text should always be referred to clearly in text, but since most electronic documents do not have “fixed” page numbers, no page numbers are generally used. However, please note the following examples:

Electronic Sources without Page, Paragraph, or Screen Numbers

Writing is a social act (Smith).

or

Joe Smith has shown that writing is a social act.

Electronic Source that Uses Fixed Page Numbers

Joe Smith suggests that writing is a social act (1).

Electronic Source that Uses Paragraph Numbers

Smith argues that writing is a social act (par. 5).

Electronic Source that Uses Screen Numbers

Smith contends that writing is a social act (screen 2).