MLA In-text Citation Format

Citations within the text **MUST** include:

- Information for the reader to locate the appropriate source in your list of works cited
- Information for the reader to locate the place in the source where the borrowed material is located

Several examples of in-text citations are given below as a starting point.

Author not named in the text

The death of a loved one is a theme Frost and other poets of his stature handle well in narrative form. In "Home Burial" Frost portrays a husband and wife who suffer the death of their child (Gordon 73).

Work by multiple authors

For a source with three or fewer authors, list the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation.

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Authors with same last names

Provide both authors' first initials if they share a last name, or full names if authors share a first initial and a last name.

Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

Author named in the text through a signal phrase

Christine **Haughney** reports that shortly after Japan made it illegal to use a handheld phone while driving, "accidents caused by using the phones dropped by 75 percent" (A8).

*Note to student: Including the author's name in the text not only shortens the information in the citation, but it also provides excellent sentence variety.

Author unknown

As of 2001, at least three hundred towns and municipalities had considered legislation regulating use of cell phones while driving ("Lawmakers" 2).

A multivolume work

There are a variety of opinions on how to stem the tide of drug-related violence. Some community activists believe that "in inner-city neighborhoods where drug-related violence is rampant…tough law enforcement is not the answer" (Fitzgerald 5:2).

Non-Print or Sources from the Internet

The absence of page numbers confuses many writers when using non-print or internet sources. Follow the guidelines below for how to document electronic and Internet sources:

- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds with the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).

- Paragraph numbers or page numbers are not needed and should not be used.

- Do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com* as opposed to writing out http://www.cnn.com or http://www.forbes.com

An unsigned Internet work

Some critics oppose Ernest Hemingway for his misogynistic attitude toward women ("Ernest Hemingway").

Two or more titles by the same author

At about age seven, most children begin to use appropriate gestures to reinforce their stories (Gardner, Arts 144-45).

Encyclopedia or dictionary

The word crocodile has a surprisingly complex etymology ("Crocidile").

*Note to student: It is not required to add the page number since readers can look up the word or entry easily in the source.

Indirect source (source quoted in another source)

According to Richard Retting, "As the comforts of home and the efficiency of the office creep into the automobile, it is becoming increasingly attractive as a work space" (qtd. in Kilgannon A23).

*Note to student: When a source quotes another writer or speaker's words, then begin the citation with the abbreviation "qtd. in."

Work in an anthology

In "A Jury of Her Peers," Mrs. Hale describes both a style of quilting and a murder weapon when she utters the last words of the story: "We call it—knot it, Mr. Henderson" (Glaspell 302).