

MLA Parenthetical Documentation (from the 5th edition)

- Whenever you use information or ideas from another text in your paper, you must indicate what work you used and where in the text you found it. Parenthetical documentation (or references) also must clearly point to specific sources in the Works Cited list.

- A typical reference consists of the author's last name and page number.

In medieval art appreciation, "the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (Robertson 136).

- A paragraph or section number, instead of a page number, may be used to reference an electronic source.

According to critic Robert Taylor, Lee's direction "stands out especially because he takes the Berkowitz story and lets it act as a backdrop to the characters' story" (para. 4).

- Other Examples

1. A work by two or three authors

Jacobsen and Waugh note that the death penalty is not warranted because of all the innocent people who have been found on death row (210).

2. A work by more than three authors

Only list the first author, followed by et al.

The European powers believed they could change the fundamentals of Moslem existence (Bull et al. 395).

3. A work in multiple volumes

If more than one volume listed in works cited page, include volume number: page number.

The French Revolution had a great influence on William Blake (Raine 1:52).

4. A work without an author

Use a shortened version of the title beginning with the first word on works cited page.

Ralph Ellison is "a writer of universal reach" ("Death" A18).

5. An indirect source

Use the abbreviation qtd. in.

Wagner stated that myth and history stood before him "with opposing claims" (qtd. in Thomas 65).

6. Same information from more than one work *Separate references with a semicolon.*

The Brooklyn Bridge has been used as a subject by many American artists (McCulloch 144; Tashjian 58).

7. Two or more authors with same last name *Include first initial.*

Crime is on the rise (Wishoff, R. 115). Yet some believe "it's not" (Wishoff, C. 76).

8. A direct quote which runs more than four lines

Indent entire quote 2 tabs (1 inch), double spaced, with no quotation marks. Note that the punctuation comes before the reference here.

The pseudoautobiographical narration typical of the picaresque tradition is shown here:

My true name is so well known in the records, or registers, at Newgate and in the Old Bailey, and there are some things of such consequence still depending there relating to my particular conduct, that it is not to be expected I should set my name or the account of my family to this work. (Defoe 1)

- If the author is cited in the paper, only use the page number in your reference.

Jay Boyar basically pointed out everything wrong with *The Hurricane* in his review, yet he gave it a good rating solely based on Denzel Washington's performance (4).

- For more information, please refer to:

Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen R. Mandell. *The Brief Holt Handbook*. 2nd Ed. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1998. (pg. 310)