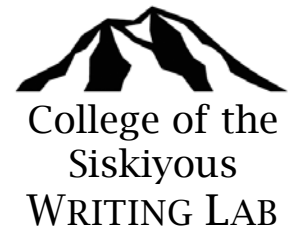


# MLA IN-TEXT



**INTRODUCTION:** In-text citations are used to document sources in the body of your paper. Whether you use a direct quotation or a paraphrase, you must use an in-text citation to give credit to the source

**AUTHOR NAMED IN A SIGNAL PHRASE:** Consider introducing the cited material with a signal phrase that includes the author's name. This prepares readers for the source and allows for a brief citation.

**Jackson claims that “jazz is the only true American music” (64).**

The signal phrase—“Jackson claims”—provides the name of the author; the parenthetical citation gives the page number where the quotation can be found. By looking up the author's last name in the list of works cited, readers will find complete information about the work's title, publisher, and the place and date of publication.

**AUTHOR NOT NAMED IN A SIGNAL PHRASE:** If the signal phrase does not include the author's name (or if there is no signal phrase), the author's last name must appear in parentheses along with the page number.

**Though jazz as we know it has only been around for eighty years, its roots can be traced back to the nineteenth century (Morris 52).**

**NOTE:** Use no punctuation between the name and the page number.

**TWO OR MORE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR:** If your list of works cited includes two or more works by the same author, include the title of the work either in the signal phrase:

**In his article “Jazz, the Dying Art,” reporter Jason Miller explains that there are only four radio stations in the United States that play jazz 24 hours a day (A6).**

Or in the abbreviated form in the parenthetical reference:

**According to Jason Miller, “Jazz is based on various African and European influences” (“Jazz” 2).**

**NOTE:** The title of an article from a periodical should be put in “quotation marks,” as in the examples. The title of a book should be *italicized*.

**TWO OR THREE AUTHORS:** If your source has two or three authors, name them either in the signal phrase:

**Both Jackson and Morris agree that ever since Miles Davis died in the eighties, jazz has never truly recovered (64).**

Or in the parenthetical reference:

**Experts agree that ever since Miles Davis died in the eighties, jazz has never truly recovered (Jackson and Morris 64).**

**FOUR OR MORE AUTHORS:** If your source has four or more authors, include only the first author's name followed by "*et al.*" (Latin for "and others") in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical reference.

**Reports suggest that UFO sightings in Mt. Shasta are at an all-time high (Roesch et al. 80).**

**UNKNOWN AUTHOR:** If an author is not given, either use the complete title in a signal phrase or use a short form of the title in parentheses.

**Some mountaineers believe Martians abducted them while climbing Mt. Shasta (*Martians* 51).**

**AUTHORS WITH SAME LAST NAME:** If your list of works cited includes authors with the same last name, include the first initial of the author you are citing in the signal phrase or parenthetical reference.

**According to UFO experts, there is a landing area on the eastern side of Mt. Shasta that facilitates small to medium sized UFOs (C. Unkefer 71).**

**A MULTIVOLUME WORK:** If your paper cites more than one volume of a multivolume work, indicate in the parentheses the volume you are referring to, followed by a colon.

**Johnson's study of Northern California alien sightings has been referred to as *National Enquirer* material (3: 106).**

**AN INDIRECT SOURCE:** When a writer or speaker's quoted words appear in a source written by someone else, begin the citation with the abbreviation "qtd. in" (which means "quoted in").

**"When people are influenced by alien propaganda," says Johnson, "they eventually go insane" (qtd. in Franklin).**

**AN ELECTRONIC SOURCE:** Follow the same rules as for print sources.

**In an interview, Ms. Arata tells Rita about her experience as the chef on a flying saucer (Furry 25).**

**NOTE:** Electronic sources often lack page numbers. If the source uses a numbering system such as paragraphs or sections, specify them with abbreviations ("par.," "sec."). Otherwise, use no number at all.

**A clip of the film *Alien* demonstrates that "we are not alone in the universe" (Beals, sec. 5).**