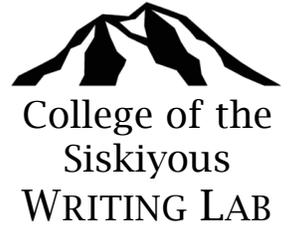


MLA IN-TEXT CITATIONS



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 AUTHORS: If your source has two 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).

THREE OR MORE AUTHORS: If your source has three 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 NAMES: If your list of works cited includes two or more authors with the same last name, provide both authors' first initials (or even the authors' full name if different authors share initials) in your citation.

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).

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").

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

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).

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