

MLA Style Guide: Parenthetical References

- Part I** Basic forms, **single author**
- Part II** Basic forms, **more than one author**
- Part III** More than one book or article **by a single author** in works cited list
- Part IV** **More than one author cited within a sentence**
- Part V** Citation forms for **paraphrased** material
- Part VI** **Specialized forms** that do not have standard page numbers, authors, or formats (classic fiction, plays, poetry, religious works, etc.)

Part I

The following examples are used for books, journal articles (print and electronic), newspaper articles, theses, dissertations etc., if an **author and page number(s)** are included in the material being cited.

Basic form:

(author page#).

Thus the principles of democracy were postponed, as Spanish America groped “blindly through authoritarianism and imitation of foreign models of progress” before it “found its own interrupted traditions” (Fuentes 143).

Repetitive Strain Injury, or RSI, is reported to be the “fastest-growing occupational hazard of the computer age” (Taylor A1).

- # The parenthetical reference appears at the end of sentences followed by a period
- # Do not use a comma between author’s name and page number
- # Do not use the abbreviation “p.” before page number
- # followed by a period
- # The second example is from the Globe and Mail. Notice the same basic structure, although the pagination reflects the newspaper format

Author’s Name in the Text:

(page#).

Lipsitz concludes that by borrowing ideas, actions, and experiences from the past, we have the potential to inform “a radical critique of the present” (68).

- # If you have mentioned the author’s name in the body of the text, it is not necessary to repeat it in the parenthetical reference
- # **NOTE: This format can be used for most of the following examples**

Quotation from Several Consecutive Pages:

(author page# - page #).

The author offers a new direction for future study: “This is the age of methods; and the university which is to be the exponent of the living condition of the mind, must be the university of methods” (Mackey 5 - 6).

- # Material for quotation is from a range of pages
- # See Part II for paraphrasing material

Quotations from Two or More Pages:

(author page#).

Although current popular fiction genres—romance, westerns, science fiction—present a “unique pattern” of how a culture expresses itself, they are essentially adaptations of traditional “folklore configurations” in a contemporary idiom (Twitchell 121, 123).

- # The content for this sentence was taken from two separate pages and must be indicated in the parenthetical reference

Multi-Volume Work , Single Author:

(author vol. #: page#).

“An evolutionary history of criticism must fail” (Welleck 5: xxii).

- # Use colon between the volume and page numbers
- # Do not include the abbreviation “vol.”

Multi-Volume Work (by a Single Author) with Name in Text:

(vol. #: page#).

Welleck admits in his multi-volume history of modern literary criticism, “An evolutionary history of criticism must fail” (5: xxii).

- # Page number (xxii) is from the “Introduction,” thus the use of Roman Numerals

Authors with Same Last Names:

(author first & last name page#).

Canadian films are engineered to reflect “evolving national policies” and thus are “representative of a desired cultural ideal” (Kass Banning 292).

There are 2 articles/books by authors with the last name Banning, so use full name for each.

Part II

Use for works with more than one author. The following examples are used for books, journal articles (print and electronic), newspaper articles, theses, dissertations etc., if an author and page number(s) are included in the material being cited.

Two Authors: (author1 and author2 page#).

The narrator, in “erasing the distance between his enemy and himself,” questions his own identity, thereby supporting an existential critique (Bougon and Marson 147).

Three Authors: (author1, author2, and author 3 page#).

(Rabkin, Greenberg, and Oleander vii).

Commas are used between all three authors' names

If authors are named in the text, include only the page number

More Than Three Authors: (author1 et al. page#).

(Gilman et al. 14).

no comma is used

If authors are named in the text, include only the page number

Part III

Use the following for parenthetical references when you have more than one book or article by a single author in your citation list. In this case, include the title in the reference. A shortened form of the title is preferred, but try to use the first word of the title; this allows readers to locate the citation in the Works Cited list.

More than One Book by an Author: (author, title of work page #).

Latin America faces the breakdown of “formerly homogeneous spheres of political, military, and religious power through the movement of the urban dispossessed” (Fuentes, Buried 346).

Author's name is followed by a comma

Original title from example is Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain in the New World.

More than One Essay or Article by an Author:**(author, “title of article” page#).**

The structure of international organization during the Cold War was an extension of an interstate system, not the creation of a supranational schema (Fuentes, “Sovereignty” 9).

- # Title of the article is “The Sovereignty of Tyranny” and has been shortened
- # Essays from books, journal articles, theses, unpublished dissertations etc. are indicated by quotation marks and are not underlined

Part IV

These examples deal with multiple quotations or ideas that are cited within a sentence.

Two Authors Quoted in Single Reference:**(author1 page#; author2 page #).**

In the midst of extraordinary social change, television has emerged as the most important discursive medium in Western culture (Lipsitz 42; Twitchell 49).

- # Used when the same piece of information or idea is quoted by two separate authors from two separate sources
- # Use semi-colon between two references

Two Authors Quoted in One Sentence:**... (author1 page#), ... (author2 page#).**

Twitchell concludes that television content is “nurtured” by public taste in a “mediaocracy” (251), while Lipsitz states that it is “directed by conscious marketing decisions in both the private and public sector” (39 – 45, 47).

- # Use parenthetical references at the end of clauses to avoid disrupting the sentence
- # The argument from the Lipsitz reference was developed over several pages, so the parenthetical reference should reflect this

Indirect Quotations from a Secondary Source:**(qtd. in author page #).**

Bhaktin argued that both “speech and narrative come from a social matrix” (qtd. in Lipsitz 68).

- # “qtd.” stands for “quoted”
- # Used for a quotation of an author from a secondary source when the original cannot be located

Part V

Use the following if you are paraphrasing or borrowing ideas from another source.

Entire Book with Author's Name and Title in the Text: *no parenthetical reference.*

Flaubert, in his novel *Madame Bovary*, uses Emma and her husband Charles as symbols to demonstrate the incompatibility of scientific rationalism with the Romantic ethos.

Paraphrasing an Idea: (author page# - page #).

Lipsitz demonstrates that popular culture as reflected through television does not develop organically, but is instead directed by conscious marketing decisions in both the private and public sector (39 – 45, 47).

- # Although no quotations marks are used, paraphrased material still must have reference
- # The argument was developed over several pages as reflected by the parenthetical reference

Part VI

The following are specialized forms for citations.

Electronic or Newspaper Source with no Author or Page Number Listed: (“title”).

Vocalist Eartha Kitt, quoted as sounding “like a cross between [...] Marlene Dietrich and Mae West,” frequently would “make the post [sic] of any potential double entendre in the words of a song” by making “innocent remarks seem like an irresistible invitation to sin” (“Emusic”).

- # This format is used for newspaper articles, newswires or pamphlets without page numbers
- # The obvious typographical error is translated directly and noted by the inclusion of [sic].

Work by Title (No Author Listed): (title page#).

In the 1970s, a U.S. presidential commission reported that recent unrest focused on “racial injustice, war and the university itself” (Report 3).

Title, Report of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, has been shortened

Corporate Author

(corporation page#).

The Master Development Plan for the Ville-Marie District, adopted by the Montreal City Council in October 1990, reflects the city's desire "for continued and more intensive development [...]" (Bureau du plan d'urbanisme 12-13).

Corporate authors are commissions, associations, committees, or any other group whose individual members are not listed on the title page

Corporate names can be shortened (e.g. Natl. for "National"), but only if it is common usage and included in the MLA Handbook chapter 6.4.

Dictionary Entry:

("title of entry," def. #)

In Milton's "Il Penseroso," his description of the moon at "her highest noon" signifies the "place of the moon at midnight" (line 68; "Noon," def. 4b).

In this case, the poetry excerpt is introduced fully in the quotation, so only the line number is included. Use the full word "line" or "lines" and do not abbreviate them

Use a comma after the title of the dictionary entry

Including the definition number (def.) is optional

Religious Works:

(title, book, chapter.verse).

Isaiah creates a most compelling image of peaceful coexistence:

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them (New Jerusalem Bible, Isa., 11. 6).

Note shortened version of biblical book (see MLA Handbook 6.7)

Abbreviations are not needed before the Book and Verse numbers as these are commonly recognized subdivisions

Plays:**(title act.scene.verse).**

The eerie incantation of three witches introduces the thematic material that shapes all events throughout the play: “Fair is foul, and foul is fair / Hover through the fog and filthy air” (Mac. 1.1.12).

- # Use of back slash to separate the lines from the text
- # Abbreviations are not needed for act, scene, or verse, as these divisions are recognized universally
- # Do not use Roman Numerals
- # Use of abbreviation of Shakespearean play (see MLA Handbook 6.7)

Classic Prose (Novels, Plays):**(author page#; additional information).**

In Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Wollstonecraft remarks that “women who, not led by degrees to proper studies, [...] have indeed been overgrown children” (185; ch. 13 sec. 2).

The novel War and Peace presents an equally pessimistic view of the individual’s role in socio-political narrative: “In historical events great men—so called—are but labels serving to give a name to the event, and like labels they have the least possible connection with the event itself” (Tolstoy 210; bk. 3, pt.1, ch.1).

- # Use semi-colon in parenthetical reference
- # Include abbreviations for each subsection
- # Do not use numbers only (as is used for plays)
- # Abbreviations will vary according to the format of the quoted source:

ch. = Chapter	pt. = Part
bk. = Book	sec. = Section
line(s) do not use abbreviation	sc. = Scene

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