What is a Parenthetical Citation?

MLA style requires the writer to point to the source from within the text (rather than with a footnote or endnote).

Specifically, the citation to the source appears in an abbreviated fashion inside parentheses.

Parenthetical Citations

The parenthetical citation may appear at the end of a sentence.

The author of *Strengths Finder* explores the idea of “the strengths zone” (Rath 11).

Parenthetical Citations

The parenthetical citation may appear at the end of several sentences that all point to the same outside source.

In the chapter on untapped talents, Rath says, “Far too many people spend a lifetime headed in the wrong direction. They go not only from the cradle to the cubicle, but then to the casket, without uncovering their greatest talents and potential” (30).

Parenthetical Citations

The parenthetical citation may appear at the end of a paragraph when all the sentences in that paragraph point to an outside source.

(Smith 406).

Parenthetical Citations

- Parenthetical citations must appear *even when all the words are yours but the idea or data comes from your research.*

Read again! This is important! If you do not give proper credit, you are guilty of *plagiarism.*
Parenthetical Citation/Works Cited Connection

- The parenthetical citation leads the reader directly to the Works Cited entry for the source; the Works Cited entry is where more information about the source is available.

Parenthetical Citations/Works Cited Page – they go together.

Example: Parenthetical Citation

- Quotations are best used when the source's words are "especially vivid" (Moore 87).

Put the author's last name and the page number(s) in the parenthetical if you have that information.

Signal Phrase

- When a signal phrase is used (that is, the author is named in your sentence), only the page number needs to appear in the parenthetical.

signal phrase
Grammar guru Tyler Moore tells us to use quotations only when they are "especially vivid" (87).

Don’t . . .

- Don't use "p." or "pp." In MLA style, the number in the parenthetical refers to pages.
- Don't use a comma between the author's last name and the page number. Use one space.

Always Cite Source

- Be sure to cite the original source, even if you don't quote any of it. Paraphrasing is a good thing!

Quotations should be used only when they are particularly memorable or powerful (Moore 87).

Works Cited

You may research many sources — 20 or 30 — but the Works Cited page includes only those sources you cite in your paper.
Sample Works Cited Entry

Works Cited

Do’s and Don’ts

- **Double-space** the Works Cited page, just like you do the rest of the paper.
- Begin the **first line** of each entry at the left margin.
- Indent **all subsequent lines** of the entry one tab (5 spaces).

**Do’s and Don’ts**

- **Alphabetize Works Cited entries by the first word in each entry** (usually the author’s last name. If the first word is a title beginning with an article (*a, an, the*), alphabetize by the second word.)
- **Do not number** the entries.

Many Kinds of Sources

- Use various kinds of sources –
  - Books
  - Journals
  - Newspaper articles
  - Internet sources
  - Library subscription databases

Follow Models

- Good places to look for models of the various types of Works Cited entries:
  - Handbook – Diana Hacker’s *A Writer’s Reference*
  - http://www.dianahacker.com/writersref

Many Kinds of Sources

Formatting is not the same for each entry on the Works Cited page. Consult your handbook.