

# MLA CITATIONS



## What is a parenthetical citation?

When you borrow someone else's words or ideas, it is important to give that person credit. Using a citation allows the reader to see where you got the information, quotation, or idea.

"No matter what you borrow, you must **CITE THE SOURCE** within your text any time you use others' facts, ideas, statistics, diagrams, charts, drawings, music, or words in your paper. Whether you quote, paraphrase, or summarize a single phrase or a several sentences, you must acknowledge the original author no matter how much of the source you use or how often you use it" (Stolley).

## How do I cite the source within my text? (Single Author)

"Quote" (author's last name page number).

"Get smart and nothing can touch you" (Hinton 78).

No , or . goes before quote.

Put a ? or ! if it is in the text,  
but still use a period at the end.

Use a single space  
between author &  
page number.

**Author's last name**

Period goes at the end!

**Page number:**

Do NOT write  
"page" or "pg"

If you use the author's name in the sentence, simply put the page number in parenthesis.

**Example:** Harper Lee's Scout is a highly intelligent and introspective young woman: "Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing" (23).

If you are citing from just **one source** throughout the essay, simply use the page numbers because the reader will know the information all comes from the one source or author.

Digital image. Web. 10 Sept. 2015. < guides.library.vu.edu.au/referencing >

Stolley, Karl, et al. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." The OWL at Purdue. 10 May 2006. Purdue

University Writing Lab. 12 May 2006.