

MLA 8th Edition: In-Text Citations

When writing research papers in the humanities, you will often be required to document your sources in accordance with **Modern Language Association (MLA)** guidelines.

Parenthetical (or In-Text) Citations:

If you quote and/or paraphrase someone else's work, you will need to cite your source **both** at the end of the sentence and in a formal citation at the end of the document (for more, see our **MLA 8th Edition: Works Cited** handout). In-text citations are enclosed in parentheses **at the end of the sentence** containing quoted and/or paraphrased material. They include the author's last name and page number when available, and they vary slightly according to the type of source (for more, see our **MLA 8th Edition: Examples Handout**). Formatting your citation will also differ based on the length of quoted and/or paraphrased information.

Short Quotations (four or less lines of text)

If you quote or paraphrase a source without using the author's name in the sentence, include the author's last name and the page number enclosed in parentheses at the end of the sentence. If you do mention the name of the author in the sentence, then you only need to include the page number. Note that **the parenthetical citation comes after the quotation mark and before the period.**

Examples:

- His words, spoken on Berkeley's campus in late October of 1966, would reverberate across the nation: "In order for America to really live...racism must die" (Carmichael 51). *If no author is given, the in-text citation includes an abbreviated source title in place of the author.
- Carmichael states, "In order for America to really live...racism must die" (51). *If no page numbers are given (i.e. for a web article), no in-text citation is required (If you give the author's name in the sentence).

Long Quotations (five or more lines of your text)

Indent long quotations one inch, introduce the quote with a colon, and do not use quotation marks. This type of quotation is also referred to as a block quote. Note that **the in-text citation comes after both the quotation marks and the period.**

Example:

Certainly racism means more than simply refraining from committing violent acts or using racial epithets. In fact, the concept of institutional racism has been in popular parlance since 1967:

Racism is both overt and covert. It takes two, closely related forms. . . . We call these individual racism and institutional racism. . . . When white terrorists bomb a black church and kill five black children, that is an act of individual racism. . . . But when in that same city—Birmingham, Alabama—five hundred black babies die each year because of the lack of proper food, shelter and medical facilities . . . that is a function of institutional racism. (Carmichael and Hamilton 4)

Paraphrases

If you restate an author's specific ideas using your own words, include an in-text citation. When paraphrasing you may incorporate direct quotations of certain impactful words or phrases within your paraphrase.

Example:

At the outset of *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*, Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton outline two types of racism. The first is "overt," consisting of hateful acts knowingly perpetrated by individuals, and the second is "covert," constituting a racism endemic to governmental and societal institutions that harm already marginalized people (4).