

Modern Language Association (MLA): Parenthetical Citations

✓ **What are parenthetical citations?**

Parenthetical citations are short references that you **MUST** include in the text of your paper to show your reader where you found each piece of information that you have paraphrased, summarized, or quoted.

✓ **When do I need to use a parenthetical citation?**

Whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or quote information from a source and include it in your work.

✓ **Why do I need to include parenthetical citations?**

Parenthetical citations direct your reader to the source in your works cited page in case the reader wants the exact source for further study. You need to give credit to the original source of information; otherwise, you will be **plagiarizing**.

- You could have almost every sentence cited!
- Citations should go after each piece of evidence, not only at the end of a paragraph.

3 Ways to Cite Information:

(1) Direct Quotations

- Enclose the exact words from the text in quotation marks.
- After the end quote, write the source's author's last name and the page number where you found the information **in parenthesis**.
- Place a period after the end parenthesis.
- Example: It may be true that "Poe's ghost stories are among the most famous in the world" (Sheldon 9).
- Things to remember when directly quoting:
 - Quotations should fit logically into your text.
 - Use quotations to support what you're trying to prove.
 - Short phrases are more easily understood than a long quote.
 - Always use your own words between quotations → use linking words to connect the ideas.
 - Discuss your quotations! Introduce the quotation before and talk about its significance after.
 - You should **NOT** have back-to-back quotations.
 - Always paraphrase when possible!

You need to have at least 1 DQ in your paper.

(2) Direct Quotations that are MORE THAN 4 TYPED Lines in your Paper

- Always provide context for your quotations and explain to the reader why and how the quotation is relevant to the topic.
- *Whole* quotation is indented 10 spaces.
- Do **NOT** need quotation marks.
- Must cite at end of quotation but the punctuation mark is **BEFORE** the first parenthesis.
- Must use a colon (:) before you indent.
- Example: The lengthy prayer with which Malory ends Morte D'Arthur conveys what many would call the medieval period's central concern:

I pray you all gentlemen and gentlewomen that readeth this book of Arthur and his knights from the beginning to the ending, pray for me while I am alive that God send me good deliverance. (Malory 412)

A long quotation is not required- unless it's necessary!

(3) Paraphrase

- For information you are putting in your own words → **NOT** quoting
- Must cite after the idea exactly like (1) Direct quotation, except with no quotation marks.
- Ex: The DPN protest was a great opportunity for deaf people to bond with interpreters (Gannon 95).