

QUICK GUIDE

In-Text Citations in MLA Style

In-text citations are brief references in your paper that direct your readers to the works-cited-list entries for the sources you consulted.

An in-text citation begins with whatever comes first in the works-cited-list entry: the author's name or the title of the work. The citation can appear in your prose or in parentheses.

Author's Name

Citation in prose

Naomi Baron broke new ground on the subject.

Citation in parentheses

At least one researcher has broken new ground on the subject (Baron).

Work cited

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193–200.

For in-text citations for works with coauthors or corporate authors, for two works by the same author, or for works by two authors with the same surname, see the *MLA Handbook*.

Title of the Work

Citation in prose

Reading at Risk notes that despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "the number of people doing creative writing—of any genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (3).

Citation in parentheses

Despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "the number of people doing creative writing—of any genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (*Reading* 3).

Work cited

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004.

For more on titles in in-text citations, including shortening titles in citations and using descriptions in place of titles for untitled works, see the *MLA Handbook*.

Location in the Work

If you quote or paraphrase a specific part of a work and the work includes page numbers, line numbers, time stamps, or other ways to point readers to the location in the work where the information can be found, include that location in parentheses. The author or title can be given in your prose or in parentheses alongside the location, but do not provide the author or title in both your prose and parentheses.

Author's name in prose, location in parentheses

According to Naomi Baron, reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (194).

Author's name and location in parentheses

Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194).

Work cited

Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media.” *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193–200.

For complex in-text citations, punctuation in in-text citations, and more, see the *MLA Handbook*.