

Parenthetical Citations Using MLA Format

1. Parenthetical citations tell readers where a writer has drawn material from a source.
2. The basic elements of the parenthetical citation are the author's last name and the page number of the material used in the source [Ex: (Brown 52)]. However, it is not necessary to repeat any information that is already clearly provided. In other words, omit the author's last name from the parenthetical citation if you have identified it in the text shortly before the material being cited.

Ex: Constance Brown argues that in Richard III, Lawrence Oliver uses a cyclical theme of the crown to create a "central device of coherence" (133).

3. Other parenthetical citations in which the author's name is not included within the text, the citation should appear as follows:

A. Work by one author

Oliver creates Richard III's "central device of coherence" by using a cyclical theme of the crown (Brown 133).

U.N. investigators who have studied the extent of child labor in third-world countries estimate that "as many as 200 million children go to work rather than to school . . . making everything from clothing and shoes to handbags and carpets" (Schapiro 205).

B. Work by two or three authors

High software prices mean that "education must do without this resource, prices must come down, or new strategies for development must be devised" (Holdstein and Selfe 27).

C. Work by more than three authors

In one important study, women graduates complained more frequently about "excessive control than about lack of structure" (Belenky et al. 205).

OR

In one important study, women graduates complained more frequently about "excessive control than about lack of structure" (Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule 205).

D. Authors with the same last name

If your citations include authors with the same last name, use the