

IN SOMEONE ELSE'S WORDS

The Why's and How's of In-Text Citation

-WHY: The reason we cite things at all.

*In text citations are important to a paper, because, (to be blunt), they prove that you are not just making your arguments up. Citations prove that you have real evidence to support your thesis, and that you can point out exactly in the text where that evidence comes from. So, it is important to learn to cite things correctly and in the appropriate style for your paper.

-HOW: The various styles of citation.

* How you cite a source depends on a couple of different factors.

1. The style of citation you are using (MLA, APA, and Chicago Style are probably the most common styles of citation you will come across)
2. The type of source you are citing. (Print, Web, DVD, etc.)

***** MLA**

- *When to use it:* MLA style is typically used in English or other Humanities courses except history, which tends to use Chicago Style.
- *The Style:* Author-Page Style. (This means that the information you must include in your in-text MLA citations is typically the author's last name and the page number of your citation).

HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL MLA CITATIONS:

- i) In his novel *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy writes, "All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" (1).
- ii) The novel *Anna Karenina* opens with the lines, "All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" (Tolstoy 1)
- iii) One might conclude that Tolstoy thinks happy families are boring because they are all the same (1).
- iv) It seems like Tolstoy is more interested in the dynamics of unhappy families because "each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" (1).

- *The Ingredients:* There are typically three elements to an MLA citation.
 1. THE SIGNAL PHRASE—the signal phrase is used to introduce the citation. Sometimes, like in example i, iii, and iv, the author's name appears in this phrase, if this is the case then you do not have to include the authors name in the parentheses.
 2. THE CITATION ITSELF—if you are quoting material directly from the text, like in examples i, ii, and iv, then that material must be encased in quotation marks. However, if, as we see in example iii, you

are merely paraphrasing the author's actual words you do not need quotation marks, but you do still need to cite your source.

3. **THE PARENTHESES**—goes right before the end of the sentence in which you are citing something. Often this means the parentheses comes right after your quotation, but not always. The parentheses always contain the page number for your citation, and sometimes include the author's name, (this depends on whether or not the author's name was mentioned in your signal phrase).

CITATION & GRAMMAR

PUNCTUATION

-Do not put a period at the end of your citation inside the quotation marks. The only punctuation marks that should go at the end of your quote are ? and !, and these should only be included if they are actually part of your direct citation.

-If the sentence that contains the quote is a question, but the citation is not, then the ? should go outside of the quotation marks and after the parentheses.

- To find out if a comma should be placed before the citation, perform a little experiment. Pretend like the quotation marks aren't there. Do you need a comma? Is the signal phrase a necessary part of the sentence?

CAPITALIZATION

- You should only capitalize the first letter in your quotation if the cited passage and what follows it could be a complete sentence. Check out examples i and ii. If you pretend like the signal phrase isn't there then the quote could stand on its own as a complete sentence. Therefore, the first letter of the quote is capitalized.

-You should NOT capitalize the first letter in your quotation if the cited passage is not a complete sentence. See example iv.

COMMON MLA IN-TEXT CITATION PROBLEMS

* **CITING THE BIBLE:** (Holy Bible, Gen. 3.14) –Use abbreviation of book name

* **CITING POETRY:** (Author's name line number)- Example: (Wordsworth 14)

* **CITING PLAYS:** If necessary give the author's name; if possible give the act, scene, and line numbers. Example: (Shakespeare 4.3.52-56).

***UNKNOWN AUTHOR:** Either use the title of the work in the signal phrase, or use an abbreviated version of the title in the parentheses.

* **TWO WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR:** Use the title of the work in the signal phrase, or use an abbreviated version of the title in the parentheses.

QUICK LOOK AT APA AND CHICAGO STYLE CITATIONS

*****APA**

-*When to use it:* APA is typically used for work in the social sciences, like psychology.

-*Style:* APA style requires three things—the author's name, the page number, which is to be preceded by p., and the date of publication.

EXAMPLES

i. Crister (2003) noted that despite the growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5)

*If the author’s name is not in the signal phrase then the parentheses should read like this: (Crister, 2003, p. 5)

*****Chicago**

-*When to use it:* Chicago style is typically used for citations in history and occasionally in the other humanities.

-*Style:* Footnotes. Chicago style uses footnotes rather than parenthetical citations.

EXAMPLES

-(The first time you cite a source your note should include the complete publication information and the page number your citation can be found on.)

i. 1. Author’s full name (first name first), *Complete Title of the Work* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), ##.

-(Any reference after that should just include the author’s last name, a short form of the title, and the pages cited.)

ii. 4. Author’s last name, *Abbreviated Title*, ##.

-(If you have two consecutive notes use “Ibid” (it means in the same place).)

iii. 8. Complete Citation

9. Ibid., ##.

Sources:

Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*.

The Purdue Owl, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

Public house—game watch