

# MLA STYLE DOCUMENTATION

## { IN-TEXT CITATIONS }

Documenting your sources involves two components – in-text citations and a works cited page.

The best advice I can give you is to create your works cited entry first; as soon as you know you are going to use a source, add it to your bibliography. Once you have your works cited entry written out, creating your in-text citations will be a lot easier, and you will be able to do them right the first time.

### Examples:

*Quotation:* “Quoted material” (Author’s last name Page number).

*Paraphrase:* Paraphrased sentence / passage (Author’s last name Page number).

*Electronic source with no author or page numbers:*

“Quoted material” (“Article/Section Title”). OR Paraphrased sentence (“Article/Section Title”).

### Notes:

- ❖ In-text citations are indicated by parentheses (). They are part of the sentence, so the end punctuation goes **after** the parentheses not before.
- ❖ The item appearing **first** in the citation on the Works Cited page should be used in the in-text citation. Usually, this is the author’s last name or the title of the article or section.
- ❖ The author’s name and page number should be separated by a space not any type of punctuation mark. Also, do not include the word *page* or an abbreviation for it.
- ❖ If a source has more than one author, list them in the order they appear in the Works Cited entry.
- ❖ In the case of a long article or section title, use a shortened version in the parenthetical citation. You should shorten the citation to the first noun in the entry. The title “Screaming Japanese Schoolgirls Overturn Greenspan’s Bus” can be cited as (“Screaming Japanese Schoolgirls”), for example.

**Practice Exercise:** Using the information set below, write correct in-text citations for each example. Each in-text citation is worth 3 points for a total of 15 points.

Works Cited
Donaldson, Sam. <i>Bantering on Watergate</i> . New York: Penguin Books, 1985.
Jennings, Peter. <i>Pushing the Limits of Political Journalism</i> . Washington: Greater Politics Press, 1994.
Smith, Charles. <i>I Love Politics: A Guide to Discerning Reality</i> . Chicago: Penn Press, 2001.
Xavier, Jason and Thomas Yater. <i>Political Guide to the United States</i> . New York: Ballantine, 2004.
Xavier, Jason. <i>Somewhere in the Political Realm</i> . New York: Ballantine, 2002.

1. **From *Bantering on Watergate*, page 45**  
“He spoke to us in German and then left us behind” (
2. **From *Pushing the Limits of Political Journalism*, page 107**  
“I never thought of myself as proud” (
3. **From *I Love Politics: A Guide to Discerning Reality*, page 451**  
“Politics is such an interesting field” (
4. **From *Somewhere in the Political Realm*, page 233**  
“Enraged is how he felt after the episode” (
5. **From *Political Guide to the United States*, page 544**  
In *Political Guide to the United States*, the Xavier and Yater explore the idea that the U.S. is changing politically (