

Using Parenthetical Documentation (In-text Citations) Practice

Use parentheses to denote the citation within the text itself. The citation should include the first element in the Works Cited citation [usually the author's last name] and the page number of the cited material (if applicable). These two elements should be separated by a space, not by a comma or any other punctuation mark. If the author is mentioned in the sentence, only the page number is required in the citation.

Examples

Direct Quotation:

"Quoted material" (Author's last name Page number).

Paraphrase:

Paraphrased sentence / passage (Author's last name Page number).

Quote from a web source with no author or page numbers:

"Quoted material" ("Article/Section Title").

Notes:

- 1) The item appearing **first** in the citation on the Works Cited page should designate the parenthetical citation. Usually, this is the author's last name or the title of the article or section.
- 2) 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.

Exercise A:

Examine each of the following pairs carefully. Indicate the passage that handles MLA in-text citations correctly and briefly explain what is wrong with the citation in the other passage.

- 1) _____
 - a. In "Death and Justice," Edward Koch, former mayor of New York City argues that "life is precious, and . . . the death penalty helps to affirm this fact (857)."
 - b. In "Death and Justice," Edward Koch, former mayor of New York City, argues that "life is precious, and . . . the death penalty helps to affirm this fact" (857).
- 2) _____
 - a. One study revealed that "by 1991 two-thirds (66.7%) of all mothers with children under eighteen were in the labor force" (107).
 - b. One study revealed that "by 1991 two-thirds (66.7%) of all mothers with children under eighteen were in the labor force" (Etzioni 107).

Exercise B:

Write a correct parenthetical citation for each example. Note: remember where the punctuation goes!

- 1) "He spoke to us in German and then left us behind"
Source: Donaldson, Sam. *Bantering on Watergate*. New York: Penguin Books, 1985. 45. Print.
- 2) "I never thought of myself as proud", says Jennings in his book *Pushing the Limits of Political Journalism*
Source: Jennings, Peter. *Pushing the Limits of Political Journalism*. Washington: Greater Politics Press, 1994. 107. Print.
- 3) "Enraged is how he felt after the episode"
Source: Xavier, Jason. *Somewhere in the Political Realm*. New York: Ballantine, 2002. 233. Print.