Internal Citation

When including information from other resources, whether it is a direct quote, a summary or a paraphrase, it needs to be documented in the research paper itself and on the Works Cited page. MLA style has several ways to document information in a research paper (internal citation). The Works Cited page lists ONLY the resources that are documented in the research paper. Citation is always needed for information that is not original (not the writer’s own idea) or that is not commonly known. Information that is commonly known, such as George Washington being the first U.S. President, does not need to be cited.

Accuracy of the quotation is extremely important, since it shows skills in documenting claims and using resources while providing the opportunity to check original resources to make sure information is not distorted. The following are examples of internal citation. (Note the three-prong thesis statement at the end of the paragraph in the summary/paraphrase parenthetical example.)

DIRECT QUOTATION WITH LESS THAN FOUR LINES (PARENTHELICAL)

One way to document a direct quotation is by using quotation marks and parentheses. This method is used for quotes of less than four lines in the research paper. The last word of the quote is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. The parentheses will enclose author’s last name and page number(s) or other measuring indicators with only one space in between. If there is no author, then the title is used. If page number or other measuring indicator is not applicable, then just the author’s name appears in the parentheses. End punctuation comes AFTER the parenthetical citation.

Example:

The causes of this wayward society are all humane; technology has no part in its creation.

“All of this equality was due to the 211th, 212th, and 213th Amendments to the Constitution, and to the unceasing vigilance of agents of the United States Handicapper General” (Vonnegut 125). Only government institutions, a product of humanity, destroy the individual.
The next example “embeds” the quote with the author’s syntax, which illustrates a more sophisticated style of writing because the student’s own words make the quote speak, rather than having the quote speak for the student.

**Another example:**

However, Thoreau’s adamant plea for “simplicity, simplicity, simplicity!” is an argument that society could comprehend and follow (Thoreau 163).

NOTE: If the source does not contain page numbers but does contain other identifying sections (e.g. paragraph numbers, screen numbers), then give the relevant number(s) preceded by the appropriate abbreviation. In this case for parenthetical citation, a comma does come between the author and identifying section (see second example). Also different is the Works Cited entry, which must include the total number of identifying sections after the publishing date or date document was last updated/created.

**Example:**

“The debut of *Julius Caesar,*” according to Sohmer, “proclaimed Shakespeare’s Globe a theater of courage and ideas, a place where an audience must observe with the inner eye, listen with the inner ear” (par. 44).

**Another example:**

Beethoven has been called the “first politically motivated composer,” for he was “caught up in the whole ferment of ideas that came out of the French Revolution” (Gardiner, screens 2-3).

NOTE: If the source does not contain page numbers or other identifying sections (e.g. paragraph numbers, screen numbers), then it is preferable to include in the text the name of the person that begins the corresponding entry on the Works Cited page.

**Example:**

William J. Mitchell’s *City of Bits* discusses architecture and urban life in the context of the digital telecommunication revolution.
DIRECT QUOTATION WITH LESS THAN FOUR LINES (IN TEXT)

Another way to cite direct quotes with less than four lines is within the text. Format is the same as the citation for Direct Quotation With Less Than Four Lines (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

Example:

In his book *The Dame in the Kimono*, Leonard J. Leff quoted Charlie Chaplin telling his friends at a private party that “we are against any kind of censorship, and particularly against Presbyterian censorship” (5).

DIRECT QUOTATION WITH MORE THAN FOUR LINES (PARENTHETICAL)

If the quotation is four lines or more, then the entire quote is indented one inch (ten spaces if typewritten) and quotation marks are NOT used. The last word of the quote is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. Again, author’s last name and page number(s) or other measuring indicators with one space in between are enclosed in parentheses. If there is no author, then the title is used. If page number or other measuring indicator is not applicable, then just the author’s name appears in the parentheses. End punctuation comes BEFORE the parenthetical citation.

Example:

The people in Kurt Vonnegut’s family, as well as a lady named Ida Young were sources of influence for him. While growing up in the Midwest, a black cook named Ida Young would read to Vonnegut from an anthology of sentimental poetry. This poetry, according to Vonnegut, was about

. . . love which would not die, about faithful dogs and humble cottages where happiness was, about people growing old, about visits to cemeteries, about babies who died. I remember the name of the book, and I wish I had a copy, since it has so much to do with what I am. (Howard 5)
DIRECT QUOTATION WITH MORE THAN FOUR LINES (IN TEXT)

Another way to cite direct quotes with more than four lines is within the text. Format is the same as the citation for Direct Quotation With More Than Four Lines (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

Example:

Thomas R. Howard adds further insight to the author’s family influence when he quotes Vonnegut about the poetry read to him as a youth by a black cook named Ida Young. The poems were about

. . . love which would not die, about faithful dogs and humble cottages where happiness was, about people growing old, about visits to cemeteries, about babies who died. I remember the name of the book, and I wish I had a copy, since it has so much to do with what I am. (5)

SUMMARY OR PARAPHRASE (PARENTHETICAL)

When summarizing or paraphrasing information of any length and/or using other people’s idea(s) of any length, parenthetical citation [author name and page number(s) with one space in between] may be used. The last word of the summary or paraphrase is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. If there is no author, then the title is used. If page number is not applicable, just the author’s name appears in the parentheses. Quotation marks are NOT used, and end punctuation comes AFTER the parenthetical citation.

Example:

In one version of the William Tell story, the son urges the reluctant father to shoot the arrow (Sastre 315; sc. 6).
SUMMARY OR PARAPHRASE (IN TEXT)

Another way to cite summaries and paraphrases is within the text. Format is the same as the citation for Summary Or Paraphrase (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

Example:

According to Mark Tiech’s “The Untouchables?” doctors find that they do not like practicing on patients with AIDS and turn these people away. Some patients are told by their doctors to look elsewhere. Some doctors refuse patients because they find the person will die soon anyway. (334-335)

POETRY WITH LESS THAN FOUR LINES (PARENTHETICAL)

Poetry with less than four lines is documented by using quotation marks and parentheses. The end of lines in poetry is indicated with two spaces, a slash mark, and two more spaces. The last word of the poem is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. The parentheses will enclose poet’s last name, poem title (in quotes) and line number(s) with only one space in between. If there is no poet, then the poem title is used. End punctuation comes AFTER the parenthetical citation.

Example:

“The husky, rusty russel of the tossels of the corn, / And the raspin’ of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn” (Riley, “When the Frost Is on the Punkin” 17-18) illustrates several excellent examples of assonance.
POETRY WITH LESS THAN FOUR LINES (IN TEXT)

A simpler way to cite poetry with less than four line is within the text. Format is the same as the citation for Poetry With Less Than Four Line (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

**Example:**

James Whitcomb Riley’s “When the Frost Is on the Punkin’” has several good examples of assonance: “The husky, rusty russel of the tossels of the corn, / And the raspin’ of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn” (17-18).

**NOTE:** If the poem is written in classic verse (e.g. Homer’s *The Odyssey*), then omit page numbers and cite by division (canto, book, part) and line(s), with periods separating the various numbers.

**Another example:**

Homer’s Odysseus is filled with pride as he begins to relate his exploits to Alcinous: “‘I am Laertes’ son, Odysseus. Men hold me / formidable for guile in peace and war: / this fame has gone abroad to the sky’s rim’” (*The Odyssey* 1.18-20).

POETRY WITH MORE THAN FOUR LINES (PARENTHETICAL)

If the part of the poem being quoted is four lines or more, then it is indented one inch (ten spaces if typewritten) and quotation marks are NOT used. The last word of the quote is followed by one space and then the parenthesis follows. The end of lines in poetry is indicated with one space, a slash mark, and one more space. The last word of the poem is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. The parentheses will enclose poet’s last name, poem title (in quotes), and line number(s) with only one space in between. If there is no poet, then the poem title is used. End punctuation comes BEFORE the parenthetical citation.
Example:

The following is another example of rich evocative detail:

   It was winter. It got dark
   early. The waiting room
   was full of grown up people,
   arctics and overcoats,
   lamps and magazines. (Bishop, “In the Waiting Room” 6-10)

POETRY WITH MORE THAN FOUR LINES (IN TEXT)

A simpler way to cite poetry with more than four lines is within the text. Format is the same as the citation for Poetry With More Than Four Lines (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

Example:

Elizabeth Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” is rich in evocative detail:

   It was winter. It got dark
   early. The waiting room
   was full of grown up people,
   arctics and overcoats,
   lamps and magazines. (6-10)
NOTE: If the poem is written in classic verse (e.g. Homer’s *The Odyssey*), then omit page numbers and cite by division (canto, book, part) and line(s), with periods separating the various numbers.

**Another example:**

A strong belief in gods is shown in Homer’s *The Odyssey* when he asks for help in beginning his story:

> Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story
> of that man skilled in all ways contending,
> the wanderer, harried for years on end,
> after he plundered the stronghold
> on the proud height of Troy. (i.1-5)

**DRAMA WITH QUOTATION FROM ONE CHARACTER (IN TEXT)**

When quoting less than four lines from one character in a play, follow the same format as the citation for Direct Quote With Less Than Four Lines (Parenthetical) except some or all of the identifying citation information is not within parentheses.

**Example:**

In *The Miracle Worker*, foreshadowing of Helen Keller’s vitality comes shortly after her difficult birth when Captain Arthur Keller announces to the doctor, “Nonsense, the child’s a Keller, she has the constitution of a goat. She’ll outlive us all” (Gibson 253)
NOTE: If the play is written in classic verse (e.g. William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*), then omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene) and line(s), with periods separating the various numbers.

Example:

Julius Caesar, in William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, dismisses his wife’s pleas and dream by admonishing her with “How foolish your fears seem now, Calphurnia! / I am ashamed I did yield to them. / Give me my robe, for I will go” (2.2.105-108).

**Drama with Quotation from More Than One Character (IN TEXT)**

When quoting dramatic dialogue between two or more characters in a play, then it is indented one inch (ten spaces if typewritten) and quotation marks are NOT used. Begin each part of the dialogue with the appropriate character’s name written in all capital letters. Follow the name with a period, and start the quotation. Indent all subsequent lines in that character’s speech an additional quarter inch (three spaces). When the dialogue shifts to another character, start a new line indented one inch. The last word of the quote is followed by one space and then the parentheses follow. The parentheses will enclose dramatist’s last name, play title (underlined), and page number(s) with only one space in between. If there is no dramatist, then the play title is used along with page number(s). End punctuation comes BEFORE the parenthetical citation.

Example:

Marguerite Duras’ screenplay for *Hiroshima mon amour* suggests at the outset the profound difference between observation and experience:

SHE.  I saw everything. Everything . . . . The hospital, for instance, I saw it. I’m sure I did. There is a hospital in Hiroshima. How could I help seeing it?

HE.  You did not see the hospital in Hiroshima. You saw nothing in Hiroshima.  (2505-06)

NOTE: If the play is written in classic verse (e.g. William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*), then omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene) and line(s), with periods separating the various numbers.

**Example:**

The clever use of puns is clearly shown in William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*:

COBBLER.  Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am but, as you would say, a cobbler.

MURELLUS.  But what trade art thou? Answer me directly.

COBBLER.  A trade, sir, that I hope I may use with a safe conscience, which is indeed, sir, a mender of bad soles.

FLAVIUS.  What trade, thou knave? thou naughty knave, what trade?

COBBLER.  Nay I beseech you, sir, be not out with me; yet if you be out, sir, I can mend you.  (1.1.10-21)
QUOTATION WITHIN A QUOTATION (PARENTHELITICAL)

A quotation within a quotation is documented by using single quotation marks inside the double quotation marks. Internal quotation marks are changed to single ones when incorporating quotations within quotations in the research paper. The last word of the quote is followed by one space, and then the parentheses follow. The parentheses will enclose author’s last name and page number(s) with only one space in between. If there is no author, then the title of the work is used. If the page number is not applicable, just the author’s name or title appears in the parentheses. End punctuation comes AFTER the parenthetical citation.

Example:
Motion pictures have been censored since their creation. In the 1920s, many directors and actors were opposed to the restriction of their creative expressions. “‘We are against any kind of censorship, and particularly against Presbyterian censorship,’ Charlie Chaplin told friends at a private party” (Leff 5). The rating system was developed in the late 1960s.

ELLIPSIS WITHIN A QUOTATION (PARENTHELITICAL)

When omitting a word, a phrase, a sentence, or more from a quotation, ellipsis points (three spaced periods) are used to indicate the missing information. Whenever words are omitted, the resulting passage should be grammatically complete and correct. For an ellipsis within a sentence, use three periods with a space before each and space after the last ( . . . ).

Example:
In surveying various responses to plagues in the Middle Ages, Barbara W. Tuchman writes, “Medical thinking . . . stressed air as the communicator of disease, ignoring sanitation or visible carriers” (101-02).