MLA In-Text Citation

In-text citations for MLA include the two following elements: author last name and page number.

The Basics

According to Graff and Birkenstein, "Many successful writers blend academic, professional language with popular expressions and sayings" (122).

Although the ability of an author to "blend academic professional language with popular expressions and sayings" is key to being a successful writer (Graff and Birkenstein 122), other qualities are important, too.

Special Cases

Groups as authors. If a source is written by a corporate author (e.g. associations, government agencies), abbreviate terms that are commonly abbreviated (e.g. Department: Dept.; University: U) and use commas in the parentheses to separate the names of administrative units.

Three of more authors. If a source is written by three or more authors, list only the first author's last name, followed by et al. and the page number.

In rhetoric, kairos refers to both the timing and appropriateness of a delivered verbal or visual text (Losh et al. 50).

No author name. If the author of a work is unknown and no organization name is provided, use the title of the work in place of the name in an in-text citation. If the title of the work is longer than a noun phrase, use an abbreviated version of the title (usually the first two words).

Scientists project that unless emissions of heat-trapping gases are brought under control, the impacts of climate change are likely to increase. ("Global Warming Effects Map").

Two authors with the same last name. Add the first initial of each author to the in-text citation.

Bullying occurs “when a person cannot be readily understood or identified” based on their deviation from the social norm; thus, there is a “psychological need” on the bully’s part to “minimize, hurt, or make the person disappear altogether” (sj Miller 107). This issue is further complicated by its tendency to occur when teachers and parents are not present. (D. Miller 2012).

Block Quote

Prose quotes longer than four lines and verse quotes (e.g. poetry, songs) longer than three lines should be set off in the text as block quote. Purdue OWL describes how to create a block quote thusly:
Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented ½ inch from the left margin; maintain double-spacing. Only indent the first line of the quotation by an additional quarter inch if you are citing multiple paragraphs. Your parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark. When quoting verse, maintain original line breaks. (You should maintain double-spacing throughout your essay.)

If you quote two or more paragraphs, indent the first line of each paragraph an additional ¼ inch. However, if the first sentence quoted does not begin a paragraph in the source, do not indent it the additional amount, only indent the subsequent paragraphs.
Works Cited

United States, Dept. of Labor. “Minimum Wage – Wage and Hour Division.” Author, 2009, 

    https://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/chart.htm


Miller, sj. “Speaking My Mind: Mythology of the Norm: Disrupting the Culture of Bullying in Schools.”