



Citing Sources in Your Text

1. If you name the author in your sentence:

John Parker claims that the elegy nearly died out as an artform in the eighteenth century (31).

The *signal phrase*—"John Parker claims that"—names the author; the parenthetical citation gives the page number where the quoted words may be found. The period follows the parentheses.

2. If you do not name the author in your sentence:

One study showed that artists-in-residence programs slightly increased the verbal SAT scores of student participants (Ruble 124).

The citation contains the author's last name and the page number, with no punctuation in between.

3. If the author's name is not given in your source:

As of 2001, at least three hundred towns and municipalities had considered legislation regulating the use of cell phones while driving ("Lawmakers" 2).

Use a short form of the title in parentheses, along with the page number of your citation. Titles of books are underlined (or italicized); titles of articles are put in quotation marks. NOTE: If a source is sponsored by an organization (such as the Red Cross) or a government agency, name that organization or agency as the author in your citation.

4. If your source does not have page numbers:

The Department of Transportation points out that existing laws already cover reckless driving related to cell phone use (Jones).

When web sources have no page numbers, use just the author's name in the citation. If a web source such as a PDF file has page numbers, use those in your citation. **NEVER put web addresses in parenthetical citations.**



Making a Works Cited Page

Your Works Cited page should list your sources alphabetically (by author's last name or by first important word of title). If an entry is more than one line long, indent each additional line one tabspace.

BOOK

Last name, First name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publishing Company, Year.

Example:

Martin, Patrick. *The Politics of the Vatican*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.

Note: University presses are abbreviated: Harvard UP, U of Chicago P.

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume Number (Year): pages.

Example:

Smith, Paige. "The Tyranny of the Wireless Industry." *Wireless News* 12 (2002): 5-8.

Notice there is no punctuation between the journal title and the volume number.

WEBSITE

Name of author. Title of Site. Date of posting or last update. Name of sponsoring organization (if any). Date you accessed the site <URL>.

Example:

Houlihan, Lisa. "Contemporary Children's Literature Links." 5 January 2004. 15 January 2004 <www.childlit.org>.

Some information for websites (such as sponsoring organization in the example above) may not be available to you. Include as much information as you can.

Notice there is no punctuation between the date accessed and the URL (web address), but there are angled brackets around the URL and a period after the URL.

CHECK THE MLA GUIDE FOR OTHER CASES:

**Anthologies, Edited volumes, Personal correspondence,
Website or Article with no author, and more**