MLA Style-8th edition: Citing Sources in the Text (parenthetical citation)

Be sure to document your research throughout the text of your paper by citing the author and page numbers that you have used. This style of citation briefly identifies your sources and enables readers to locate detailed information in the works cited/bibliography list at the end of your paper. It is okay to use the ideas and words of others as part of a research paper, as long as you give credit where it is due.

Author’s name is in the referred text:

According to John Speka, Mt. Whitney in California is “one of the easier mountains to climb in the Sierra Nevada” (136).

Author’s name not in referred text:

In the Sierra Nevada, Mt. Whitney is “one of the easier mountains to climb in the Sierra Nevada” (Speka 136).

The corresponding citation in the works cited page at the end of your paper would look like this:


Two Authors: List Authors individually up to a total of two

According to Harris and Hamu, “The golden age of surfing was in the 1970s on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii” (47).

“The golden age of surfing was in the 1970s on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii” (Harris and Hamu 47).

Corresponding citation on works cited page:


If there are three or more authors for the work cited then use the last name of the first author listed followed by ‘et al.’ and the page number.

(Feeney et al. 456-57).
If the work does not have an author but is instead listed on the works cited page by a title then use it followed by the page numbers referred to:

The harbormaster of Humboldt Bay has decided that ships over 150 feet in length will have to be guided by a tugboat or a harbor pilot (“Shipping Rules Change” A2).

Corresponding citation on works cited page


*Newspaper Source Plus.*

If there is no page number listed then you do not have to put one down (for example many resources found on the World Wide Web do not have page numbers as well as some articles in databases or ebooks):

The Monterey Bay Aquarium has several research and conservation programs that cover many aspects of ocean research including the global tagging of Pacific predators, recovery of sea otter populations, and their very popular Seafood Watch program (Monterey Bay Aquarium).

Corresponding citation on works cited page:

Monterey Bay Aquarium. *Research & Conservation Programs*, 2016,

www.montereybayaquarium.org/conservation-and-science.