

MLA Refresher

In-text citations

Heading

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English 11 Honors

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MLA Refresher: *Be successful*

- Follow the proper format
- Online help: Purdue OWL
- Find sample MLA papers online

MLA: *The Basics*

- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt
- Margins: 1 inch
- Page Numbering: top right corner, .5 inch from the top
- Titles of books, movies, works of art: italicize
- Titles of article, poems, and short stories: quotations

Direct Quotes: *Tags*

- **Tags:** The introductory clause before or after your quote
- Tags lend credibility and help prove your point
 - Use strong verbs such as *argues*, *agrees*, or *illustrates*
 - **Example:** Lloyd Benson, veteran lead dispatcher for Dixie National Forest, claims “forest fires can be predicted with careful attention to weather conditions” (Smith 15).

Direct Quotes: *Three Parts*

Monarchs sheltering in central Mexico provide a memorable spectacle as they “flutter their wings in a synchronistic movement” (Herrera 58).

Tag

Quote

Citation

Direct Quotes : *No Dumping*

- **Dumped quote:** a quote placed in your writing without a tag. It just sits there, and the reader doesn't know why you've added it. There is also no explanation after.



Many people mistakenly believe that the residents of homeless shelters are lazy and unmotivated. "Most people in homeless shelters are suffering from mental illnesses."

Many people mistakenly believe that the residents of homeless shelters are lazy and unmotivated. According to a recent study by Daniel Moriarty, a Stanford psychologist, "Most people in homeless shelters are suffering from mental illnesses."

DON'T DUMP AT QUOTE AT THE END OF A PARAGRAPH.

Basic in-text citation: *ALL CORRECT*

- Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
- Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
- Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Basic in-text citation

- **Direction Quotation**

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

- **Direction Quotation, author's name is tagged**

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

- **Paraphrase**

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Another example...

- Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).
- Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

The Bible

- Ezekiel saw "what seemed to be four living creatures," each with faces of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10).
- If you tag the reference, no parenthetical citation is needed.

Author is unknown

- We see global warming hotspots in North America because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data. . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).
- Cats are the best pet because they have the ability to "see into the soul of the human – but only the worth ones. Only the worthy ones" (*The Cat Whisperer*).

Multiple Authors: 2-3

- Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).
- The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Multiple Authors: 4 or more

- Jones et al. counter Smith's argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).
- Legal experts counter Smith's argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (Jones et al. 4).
- Jones, Driscoll, Ackerson, and Bell counter Smith's argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).

Multiple Works by Same Author

- *Citing two articles by the same author:*
 - Lightenor has argued that computers are not useful tools for children ("Too Soon" 38), though he acknowledged elsewhere that early exposure to computer games does lead to better small motor skill development ("Hand-Eye Development" 17).
- *Citing two books by the same author:*
 - Murray states that writing "varies with our thinking style" (*Write to Learn* 6). Additionally, Murray argues that the purpose is to "carry ideas and information " (*A Writer Teaches Writing* 3).
- *Author's name not tagged:*
 - Visual studies, because it is such a new discipline, may be "too easy" (Elkins, "Visual Studies" 63).

Indirect Source

- An indirect source is a source cited in another source. Use "qtd."
- Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).
- Note: a responsible researcher will attempt to find the original source, rather than citing an indirect source.

Multiple Citations

- . . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).