

## Crediting Sources Within Your Text

**W**hile writing your paper, use parentheses to credit direct quotations, paraphrased material, and summarized information. MLA style makes this task quite simple. Although these basics will get you started, you will, at some point, need to access a current style manual to get more specialized information.

- **Author’s name used in text:** If you use the author’s name as you introduce the material, you need only put the page number in parentheses, after the quotation marks and followed by a period.

*Example:*

Hailey states that the “effective selection of a college begins with careful and deliberate research, based on identified priorities” (133).

- **Author’s name used in parentheses:** If you do not include the author’s name as you introduce the material, you need to include it in parentheses, along with the page number. The parenthetical reference is placed after the quotation marks. Add a period after the parentheses.

*Example:*

It has been suggested that “a majority of students who ignore the research process of selecting a college end up dissatisfied with their choice and eventually drop out” (Hailey 142).

- **Author unknown:** If the author of the material is unknown, then you need to reference the work by title. If the title is short, use it in its entirety; if it is long, offer a brief version. As with other citations, the parenthetical reference follows the quotation marks, and the period follows the parentheses.

*Example:*

According to one source, “scholarship money is unfairly distributed, often going to students whose parents know how to work the system” (“Scholarship Scandals” 41).

- **Multiple authors:** If your information has multiple authors, list all of them, by last name, in the text, or place all of their names in the parentheses, along with the page number. As with other citations, the parenthetical reference follows the quotation marks, and the period follows the parentheses.

*Example 1:*

In *Finding Your Dream School and Getting In*, Grant, Jenkins, and McCoy assert that a high percentage of parents pressure their children to go to a college of the parents’ choice, without considering the long-term effects that their decision will have on their children (23–25).

*Example 2:*

One group boldly suggests that a high percentage of parents pressure their children to go to a college of the parents’ choice, without considering the long-term effects that their decision will have on their children (Grant, Jenkins, and McCoy 23–25).



Your parenthetical references should immediately follow any direct quotations. When you paraphrase or summarize, place the reference as close to the information as possible, without interrupting the flow of the passage.