

# MLA 9th Edition

## Part II: Citations

# Paranthetical Citations

- At the end of a quote or paraphrase
- Placed inside parentheses
- Period follows the closed parentheses
- Use the author's last name or shortened title (whichever comes first in the Works Cited entry)

# What does it look like

## In-text Citations:

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

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

## Source:

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*. London: Oxford UP, 1967.

# In-text Citations for TWO AUTHORS:

## In-Text Citations:

Best and Marcus argue that one should read a text for what it says on its surface, rather than looking for some hidden meaning (9).

The authors claim that surface reading looks at what is “evident, perceptible, apprehensible in texts” (Best and Marcus 9).

## Source:

Best, David, and Sharon Marcus. “Surface Reading: An Introduction.” *Representations*, vol. 108, no. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 1-21. JSTOR, doi:10.1525/rep.2009.108.1.1

# Citing Indirect Sources

An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted.

## **In-Text Citation:**

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259)

## **Source:**

Weisman, Gerald. *Social Service in Public Schools*. Tuttle, 2015.

## **Block Quote: for quotes longer than four typed lines**

- Begin on a new line
- Indented a half an inch (two tabs)
- Do NOT use quotation marks
- Place the period BEFORE the citation

# What does it look like?

Douglass is particularly blunt in his assessment of "Christian" behavior in the south:

I assert most unhesitatingly, that the religion of the south is a mere covering for the most horrid crimes, --a justifier of the most appalling barbarity,-- a sanctifier of the most hateful frauds,--and a dark shelter under, [*sic*] which the darkest, foulest, grossest, and most infernal deeds of slaveholders find the strongest protection. (53)

This statement reveals the passionate anger Douglass feels at the perversion of the "love-thy-neighbor" philosophy of Christianity.

**Question:**

How are words added or omitted in a quote?



To add or change words:

put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not part of the original text.

# What does it look like?

Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states, "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

**To omit words in a quotation:**

indicate the deleted word or words by using ellipsis marks, which are three periods ( . . . ) preceded and followed by a space.

# What does it look like?

In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).

## Sources used:

*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites.* The Writing

Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008,

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl). Accessed 9 Jan.

2017.

**\*copy and paste the url for more information on the MLA format**