

Integrating Source Material in MLA Format

Why do we use source material in assignments?

Writing assignments often include a research element, and it's important to correctly format and cite the resources. The choice to use citations in your academic work shows your ability to read and understand your source material. Using quotes or paraphrasing shows that you can understand and communicate ideas that are not your own but are connected to your main point. In-text citations also show the student can find relevant research and reference it correctly and appropriately in their assignments.

How to Create In-text Citations

The Modern Language Association (MLA) uses the **author-page method** for in-text citations. This means citations **must include the author's last name and the page number** of the direct quote or paraphrase **inside parentheses** at the end of the sentence (see examples below).

- Direct quotations are the exact words pulled from the source to show exactly what the author has said.
- Paraphrasing the source idea shows the student understands the idea and has chosen to explain in it a different way.
- Citations may appear anywhere in the sentence, and the format may change depending on how the sentence is constructed.

How to Format

1. Direct quote from the material

Madden claims the Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, and this reflects how “the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures in the third century” (54).

- In this example, the introductory phrase introduces the author's last name before directly quoting the idea, so **only** the page number is required at the end.

The Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, and this reflects how “the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures in the third century” (Madden 54).

- In this alternate example, the introductory phrase **does not** introduce the author's last name before directly quoting the idea, so the author's last name **and** the page number are required inside the parentheses at the end.

2. Paraphrase the source idea in your own words

The Hippodrome's value increased during the fourth century after Roman Emperor Constantine I relocated the Empire's administrative seat to ancient Byzantium in 324 A.D. (Madden 64).

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- Since the summary of the author's original idea/information in the student's own words appears on its own, the author's last name **and**

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