In-Text Citations for MLA and APA

There are several different ways to cite the works that are referenced in research papers. The format is what decides what way the in text and end of work citations will look and where they are located.

MLA is one of the most common formats students will encounter for English classes and some history classes. This format uses in-text citations that contain the author's last name, or the name of the work if there isn't an author listed. A page number after the author or source is included in parenthesis at the end of the sentence if it is a physical work. **Remember, these in-text citations would be used for both quotes and when you paraphrase.**

If there is an author

- If you wanted to use a quote, it would look like this:

  When asked about her inspiration behind her writing, she said, "I write to discover what I know" (O'Connor 78).

- If you wanted to paraphrase, it would look like this:

  O'Connor frequently relied on her personal experiences for her writing (78).

If there is no author named

- The in-text citation with a quote would look like this:

  According to writing professionals, "There are MLA guidelines in reference books, in handouts, and online" ("The Writing Center").

- For a paraphrase, it would look like this:

  There many different sources for MLA guidelines ("The Writing Center").

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APA is the format used for the science side of things, like nursing and psychology. The in-text citations will look much the same, except instead of page numbers; the year of publication is what is included after the author or title of the work. A comma is also placed between the author's name and the publication date.

For example, if there is an author

> There are studies on the effects of excessive caffeine consumption in teenagers, showing that "it can have a negative impact" (Johnson, 2017).

If there is no author

> The prevalence of energy drinks that are available to teenagers are proving to be dangerous in ways that were unforeseen a decade ago ("Monster Consumption: Energy Drinks Affecting Teenagers," 2019).

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The use of **quotes** versus **paraphrasing** is an important part of writing a research paper. Paraphrasing is taking what the author has researched and presenting it in a paper with the students own words. This is useful and helps students get a better understanding of the material, and still needs to be cited. Quotes are important tools to reinforce an important part of the argument or point the paper is trying to make and shouldn't be overused. Instead, try to use quotes only when paraphrasing won't get the point across as well as the quote.