**MLA: In-Text Citations**

*It is important to cite your sources within the text of your document. In-text citations are required when you use information from a source, whether that information is quoted or paraphrased. In-text citations, or parenthetical citations, are meant to tell your reader when you use source information, and it is a link to your works cited page. This link makes it easier to find your sources, and it is helpful to those who want to duplicate your research.*

**Basic Guidelines:**

* Name the author within the parentheses.
* Include a page number within the parentheses.
* Place the period AFTER the parentheses.
* Place the citation as close as possible to the material being cited.
* In-text citation must have a corresponding entry on the works cited page.

**Readability:**

* Keep parenthetical citations brief.
* Use as few as possible.
* Give only the information needed to identify the source.
* Do not add citations unnecessarily.

**Author Named in Sentence:**

When an author is named in the sentence, you do not need to repeat the author’s name in the parentheses.

*Example:*

…As Reyes explains, after encouraging her students to explore issues of religion in their writing, she now finds it beneficial to use a “more complex and nuanced view of religion, literacy, and identity” in English classes (263).

**Author Named in Parentheses:**

When the author is not named in the sentence, you must include the author’s name in the parentheses.

*Example:*

…By implementing “more complex and nuanced view[s] of religion, literacy, and identity” in English classes, we are better able to encourage students to explore these controversial issues in-depth (Reyes 263).

**Unknown Author:**

When the author is unknown or not given, cite this work by the title. You can use the full title in a signal phrase or an abbreviated version of the title in parentheses.

*Example 1:*

…“Squaresville, USA VS. Beatsville” makes the Midwestern small-town home seem boring compared with the West Coast’s artist’s “pad” (31).

*Example 2:*

…The Midwestern small-town home seems boring compared with the West Coast artist’s “pad” (“Squaresville” 31).

**Multiple Authors in One Citation**

If you need to cite more than one work in a single parenthetical reference, cite each work as you normally would in a reference, and use semicolons to separate the citations

*Example:*

(Fukuyama 42**;** McRae 101-33).

**Indirect Sources**

Citing indirect sources involves taking material cited in another source and using it within your own work. Whenever possible, you should take material from the original source; however, sometimes only an indirect source is available. For example, someone’s published account of another’s spoken remarks.

*Example:*

…Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 450).

The information for this handout was compiled from the following source:

Modern Language Association. *The MLA Handbook.* 8th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2016. Print.