By citing your sources “in-text” using parentheses, you are giving credit to the authors whose works you have consulted, as well as directing your reader to a specific location in that work. Each work you cite in parentheses should also appear on your Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

Usually the author’s last name and a page reference are enough to identify the source and specific location from which you have taken material:

“It was a pleasure to burn” (Bradbury 1).

If you mention the author’s name right before or after the quote, a page number alone is sufficient for your reference:

It may be true, as Robertson maintains, that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance . . . “ (136).

If you are using several books or articles by the same author, include the title (or a shortened version of it), along with the page number. Book titles should be italicized, while article titles should be in quotations:

Graber says, “The most consistent characteristic of most Islamic ornament is that neither its size or its internal forms are dictated by anything but itself” (Islamic Art 200).

If there are two authors, include both of their last names in the order they appear on the source:

“African history has shown that one of the characteristics of an effective chief was his ability to move his subjects with the power of his speeches” (Matsumoto and Hwang 36).

If there are three or more authors, cite the first author followed by the phrase “et al.”

“Cryptosporidium has been responsible for disease outbreaks related to contaminated water in developing countries” (Percival et al. 83).

If the source has no author, refer to the title of the source instead:

Double agents are still widely in use (Spies 12-15).

When citing a multivolume work, include the volume number before the page:

According to the Encyclopedia of Careers, “from 1997-2007, the number of nail salons in the United States has doubled” (4: 519).

When citing an internet source, include the first item that appears in the Works Cited entry for the source (e.g. author name, article name, or website name, etc.)

One online film critic stated that Fitzcarraldo is “a scary critique of obsession” (Garcia).
When and how to quote using MLA 8th

In order to avoid plagiarism, parenthetical references should be used both when you are directly quoting an author and when you are paraphrasing an author’s idea without using quotations.

Direct quote:

“He felt himself facing something ungraspable. The eyes that looked so intently at him were without humor”

(Golding 34).

Partial quote, use an ellipsis ( . . . ) to end the quotation:

“There was the brilliant world of hunting, tactics, fierce exhilaration, skill; and then there was the world of longing . . .” (Golding 64).

Direct quote ending in a question or exclamation point:

“You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it out!” (Golding 64).

If you use a quotation of more than four typed lines, set it off from the text by indenting it half an inch from the left margin. Do not add quotation marks:

Architecture has always been used by ambitious governments as a way of demonstrating their power and their success, and nowhere more so than in Latin America in the twentieth century. The English- speaking world has tended to forget that in the middle decades of the century Latin America was held in high regard, especially in the United States, for the quantity, quality, and diversity of its new architecture. (King 222)

Paraphrasing—putting someone else’s ideas into your own words. You still need a citation, but do not use quotation marks:

In the mid-twentieth century, Latin American governments used architecture to display their success, and it was greatly admired by the English-speaking world (King 222).