MLA In-Text Citation for a Summary

Whenever you summarize another writer’s words or ideas, you must cite that writer in your text to give him or her credit. To avoid plagiarism, you must cite sources in your text as well as listing them on your Works Cited page.

To cite a source for a summary:

1) Lead into the summary by naming the author. (If no author is listed, use the title instead. If no title is listed, use the name of the individual page of the website.)

2) Finish the summary by providing the page number(s) in parentheses.

This conveys to the reader that everything between the name of the author and the parenthetical citation is a summary of the cited source. (If you don’t name the author at the beginning, it looks as if only the last sentence derives from the cited source.)

According to Nicholas Lemann, experts on terrorism seek to understand the root causes of terror. Instead of viewing terrorists as brainwashed or crazy, analysts regard them as sane people who make rational choices based on the inducements and disincentives confronting them. For example, one researcher found that the Taliban in Afghanistan pays its followers several times what the US-financed government pays local soldiers and police officers (73).

Further resources:
- Ask a librarian, or visit the Academic Resource Center.
- Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl.english.purdue.edu/)
- EasyBib > Register > Sign in using your account with > Google (use your Kent email and password)

See reverse for instructions on in-text citation for quotations and paraphrases.
Whenever you quote or paraphrase another writer's words or ideas, you must cite that writer in your text to give him or her credit. To avoid plagiarism, you must cite sources in your text as well as listing them on your works cited page.

Citing a source for a quotation or a paraphrase:

- The citation should consist of the name of the author and the page number of the quotation or paraphrase.
- If no author is listed, use the title instead. If no title is listed, use the name of the individual page of the website.
- One way to cite the author is by naming him in the lead-in to the quotation, paraphrase, or summary. (See sentence #2 in box.)
- The other way to cite the author is to provide her name in parentheses at the end of the sentence that contains her words or ideas.
- If you use two works by the same author, you must name the title as well as the author in either the lead-in or the parentheses.
- There is only one way to cite the page number: in parentheses at the end of the sentence that contains the borrowed words or ideas. Just write the number without a p. in front of it.
- You may omit the page number if a source lacks page numbers and/or if the

The above are examples of the correct in-text citation for a book (Houston), a newspaper (Krueger), an individual webpage with no author listed (“How to Make Vegetarian Tacos”), and a magazine article that is one of two sources by the same author (Sanchez).

- If you're quoting from a poem, use line numbers instead of page numbers.
- If you’re quoting Shakespeare, use act, scene, and line numbers instead of page numbers. (Cite modern plays by page number.)

See reverse for using in-text citations with a summary.