In-Text Citations -- MLA Format

In-text documentation is the recognized format for acknowledging borrowed information within your original text. No longer are footnotes or endnotes used, unless you need to clarify or add some information.

Use in-text documentation to cite a source whenever you:

- Use an original idea from one of your sources, whether you quote or paraphrase it
- Summarize original ideas from one of your sources
- Use factual information that is not common knowledge (Common knowledge is information that recurs in many sources. If you are not certain it is common knowledge, cite to be safe.)
- Quote directly from a source
- Use a date or fact that might be disputed

Usually only the author's last name (NO comma), one space, and then page number.

In the absence of an author, the title and the page number are given.

Do not use the word "page" or any abbreviations "p" or "pg.".

Page numbers may also be omitted when citing Web resources, which do not normally include pagination

The purpose of this format is to give immediate credit to the original source without interrupting the flow of the paper. Usually parenthetical citations are placed at the end of a sentence, but they may be placed in the middle (see example 6). The academic world takes in-text documentation seriously. *Inaccurate documentation is as serious as having no documentation at all.*

http://nausetschools.org/research/intext.htm

Rules for Using In-Text Documentation

1. Put the author's last name and the page number in parentheses. Do not use "page" or abbreviations for page just write the number. In most cases you will be citing one or two pages, leading your reader to a specific piece of information. Allow one space before the parentheses but none after it if a period follows.

Example: Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native* is almost the last example of coincidence (Ellman 89).

2. If you are using more than one book by the same author, give the **last name**, comma, the **title**, and the **page**.

Example: Animal imagery conveys the primitive, uncontrolled rage that the peasants feel. One person "...had acquired a tigerish smear about the mouth" (Dickens, *Tale of Two Cities* 33-34).

3. If you identify the author and title in the text, just give the **page number**.

Example: In *Jude the Obscure*, Hardy depicts the heart-rending disappointment that Jude must face: "...the towers of the Medieval buildings haunted his existence and at the same time they beckoned him to call the pillars of learning his home" (9).

4. If there is no author, give the **title** and the **page number**.

Example: Some critics, including Christopher Ricks, feel that Thomas Hardy overuses trite coincidences to generate the action in his novels (*Spectator* 5).

5. If you are quoting a direct quotation from a secondary source, you must identify it as such.

Example: According to Derek Montana, "...the critic's worst enemy is himself" (qtd. in Paris 87).

6. If a quotation or information appears in the middle of your own idea, then insert the documentation immediately after the quotation.

Example: Derek Montana's idea, "...the critic's worst enemy is himself" (qtd. in Paris 87), parallels the idea that interpretation reveals one's own biases.