



## **Parenthetical Citations in the Body of Your Paper**

Whenever you cite the words or ideas of another person, either directly or indirectly, it is important to make his or her contribution clear. In the MLA format, the proper way to attribute a quote or an idea is with a parenthetical citation. Below is an assortment of typically structured parenthetical citations. For more examples, see "Parenthetical Citations," *MLA Handbook* (7th ed.) 231-232.

### **When you omit the author's name in your sentence:**

"Boolean logic" was named after the nineteenth century British mathematician and logician George Boole (Gibaldi 7).

### **When you mention the author's name in your sentence:**

Castro observes that "HTML is not hard to learn or to master" (ix).

### **When you cite more than one work by the same author:**

One current theory emphasizes the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, *Sleep* 184). But investigation shows that young children's dreams are "rather simple and unemotional" (Foulkes, *Dreams* 78).

### **When the work has two or three authors:**

Psychologists hold that no two children are alike (Gesell and Ilg 68).

### **When the work has no author, begin with the word by which the title is alphabetized in the Works Cited:**

The word "caring" has a special importance at St. Paul's (Course Descriptions 4).

## **Parenthetical Citations for Scripture**

Parenthetical citations of Biblical sources should include the book number in roman type followed by abbreviated chapter name and verse number, with a colon or period between chapter and verse.

### **A Parenthetical Citation from the Old Testament**

(NRSV, Deut. 5.19)

### **A Parenthetical Citation from the New Testament**

(NRSV, 2 Cor. 9.6)

### **A Parenthetical Citation from the Apocrypha**

(NRSV, Tob. 14.5)

Updated 9/2009: LS & LL