

When writing in MLA, it is important that a student distinguish which parts of the essay are his or her own original ideas and which parts are the ideas of others used to support the student's argument or claim. In order to do so, the student should include a citation within the text every time he or she *summarizes, paraphrases, or quotes* another individual's work or ideas. This internal citation should correspond directly to a lengthier citation that the reader can find on the work(s) cited page using the signal phrase that the student provides within the text, e.g., the author's last name or the title of a work when no author is provided.

Internal Citation Examples for Books and Articles in Scholarly Journals:

If you use the author's name in the text:

Garza notes that although cats appear to be more intelligent than dogs, dogs actually use similar problem-solving strategies (12).

If you don't use the author's name in the text:

Self-proclaimed "cat ladies" often admit that they have never owned dogs, and their "cat lady" traits were inherited from either parent or both (Garza 26-32).

If using a quotation, the citation goes after the closing quotation mark:

Garza goes on to explain that "Preference for either dogs or cats is indicative of other personality traits" (15).

It is okay to omit the author's name from citations after the first citation in a paragraph:

On the contrary, there have been documented cases in which cats protect infant children from perilous situations (Garza 34-36). Further, although these cases are rare, they do demonstrate that cats can be trustworthy companions (37-39).

If the quote is more than four lines, it should be separated from the text, and the quotation marks should be omitted; the citation goes one space after the ending punctuation:

Having been an owner of both cats and dogs for over 20 years, Garza explains:

Both dogs as well as cats can be great companions. Dogs can typically be counted on to bring positive energy and happiness to the home, while cats, although very independent, can provide a similar level of comfort as dogs to their owners. (43)

Other Internal Citation Examples:

If you are using a source that has multiple authors:

Despite common belief that all dogs and cats have become domesticated, one should use caution when approaching stray dogs and cats (Garza, Cheatum, and Johnston 56).

If you are using a book with a corporate author:

When training a new puppy, it is essential that you take the dog outside at least once an hour until the dog understands its designated bathroom area (Animal Research Council 15).

If you are using a book or longer work that has no known author:

If you are bringing a new dog into a home where a dog already resides, introduce them in a neutral setting, such as at a park or while on a walk around the neighborhood, to avoid conflict (*Adopting Your Newest Family Member* 6).

If you are using an article or shorter work that has no known author:

When housetraining your dog, do not use your dog's crate as punishment, as accidents will happen during the training process ("Housetraining 101," 2).

If you are using a page on a website that has a group or corporate author:

Contrary to popular belief, there are many animal shelters that are considered "no kill shelters," which do not send any animals to the pound (Animal Defense Organization).

If you are using a page on a website that has no author, no page numbers, and no paragraph numbers listed:

During the housetraining process, put your puppy on a routine or schedule that is fixed and does not conflict with yours ("Housetraining: Creating a Routine").

If you are using a page on a website that has no author or page numbers but does have paragraph numbers listed:

If your puppy does have an accident in the house, take him or her outside to his or her designated bathroom area ("How to Deal with Accidents," par. 6).

If you are using an entire website:

It is recommended that a pet owner have a microchip implanted within the pet's skin and have the pet wear an updated ID tag (*Department of Pet Safety*).

If you are using an indirect source:

Montalvo, although an avid animal lover, argues that "There is no place for pets within the home; they are meant to live outdoors only" (qtd. in Garza 11).

If you are using a religious source:

God created “every living creature that moveth” and declared that “it was good” (*King James Bible*, Gen. 1.21).

If you are using a personal interview:

“I simply consider myself a cat person; I love all animals, but there is a special place in my heart for those furry little kittens” (Jones).

If you are using a film:

Many believe that dogs understand humans more than they are given credit for; studies have shown just how well dogs know and understand what people are saying (*Decoding Dogs*).

If you are using a map or chart:

In 1985, families were 59% more likely to have a household pet; 65% of these families preferred dogs to cats (*Title of Chart*).

If you are using a painting or work of art:

In the masterpiece “Lone Dog in a Tornado of Cats,” the artist uses a portrait landscape to emphasize the enormity of the cat tornado; brisk brushstrokes are used to illustrate the chaos of the storm and the strength of this brave dog (Fritts).

If you are using works by more than one author with the same last name, include the first initials in the internal citations:

Many experts have reported that movies can have a positive effect on one’s psychological state (C. Wallace 29). It has also been found that the films that do well in the box office are the films that have the most positive effects on people (W. Wallace 17).

If you are using works by more than one author with the same first initial and last name, include the first and last names in the internal citations:

In 2004, approximately 75% of American pop stars’ songs were about heartbreak (Natalie Garcia 5). However, in 2005, that percentage decreased to approximately 65% of the songs being about heartbreak (Nathan Garcia 45).

If you are using multiple works by one author, include a short form of the source’s title in addition to the normal citation:

The woman told the judge that it was the cashier that “...counted the money wrong on purpose and carried away a bag he did not have before” (Carson, “Crime Gone Wrong” 78).

If you are using a source that uses paragraph numbers instead of page numbers:

A survey conducted showed that approximately 47% of all single moms eat pizza at least three times a week (Martinez, par. 5).