MLA Style Parenthetical References

In MLA style, references are placed in parentheses to identify the sources documented in the Works Cited. Authors and page numbers are usually all that is necessary to cite within the body of the paper. And remember, the parenthesis goes before the punctuation mark.

- **Work by a single author (name in text of paper)**

In his work, John Brown criticizes the health care system as it exists in the United States (118-21).

- **Work by a single author (name in parenthesis)**

The health care system in America has been receiving criticism of late (Brown 118-21).

- **Work by two or three authors (names in text of paper)**

Jones and Richards have studied this phenomenon extensively (23-55).

- **Work by two or three authors (names in parenthesis)**

An explanation for this phenomenon has now been suggested (Jones and Richards 23-55).

- **Work by more than three authors (names in text of paper)**

Beale et al. state that the documentaries of Michael Moore are better described as “docutainment” (44).

- **Work by more than three authors (name in parenthesis)**

Michael Moore’s films have ignited fierce controversy amongst liberals and conservatives (Beale et al. 47-51).

- **Unknown author:** *When a work has no author, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title when citing it in text.*

“Hype,” by one analysis, is “an artificially engendered atmosphere of hysteria” (“Today’s Marketplace” 51).