**MLA Parenthetical Citation CHEAT SHEET**

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| **CITING SITUATION** | **EXAMPLE** |
| **\*Most commonly used**  When you do NOT mention the author's name in your sentence, the Author's name and page number are placed in parentheses at the end of your sentence. | **Paraphrase example:** One researcher has found that dreams move backward in time as the night progresses (Dement 71).  **Direct quotation example:** Many believe that “dreams move backward in time” as people sleep through the night (Dement 71). |
| **\*Second most commonly used, esp. for web sources**  When the work has NO AUTHOR, begin with the first few words of the citation as it will appear alphabetized in your Work Cited page at the end of your paper. | Random testing for use of steroids by athletes is facing strong opposition by owners of several of these teams ("Steroids"). |
| When you mention the author's name in your sentence, the page number is placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence. | Freud states that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (154). |
| 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 more than three authors, use the Latin term "et al" which means "and others" after the first author's last name. | Child psychology is not a new field, but it is a difficult one due to the nature of the subjects (Rosenberg et al. 14). |
| When you are citing an interview: | He claimed that he does not see his actions as heroic but necessary for to the good of mankind (Johnson). |

**COMMON RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN CITING**

1. The majority of your essay should be cited paraphrase, not direct quotations (no more than three direct quotations since this is a short essay).
2. You must cite after every direct quotation.
3. You must cite every time you change sources or change page numbers.
4. Citations go at the end of your sentence before your period.
5. If several sentences in a row all come from the same source and same page number (if it is print), then you can wait until the last sentence before you cite.
6. If you are citing from the same print source and only changing page numbers, you can drop the author’s last name after the first citation and only put the page number from then on.
   1. Example: Harriet Tubman saved the majority of blacks from slavery by creating the Underground Railroad (Smith 5). She would make friends with homeowners and make arrangements for those owners to help all of the people she was trying to save (6).