HOW-TO

Credit Your Research Sources:

IN-TEXT CITATION

There are two types of in-text citation required in your written essay.

1. **formal MLA in-text parenthetical citations** – We call these traditional in-text citations “silent” or “whisper” citations because they are not read out loud.

2. **“out loud” attributions** – You can also give credit to your sources “out loud” by writing a direct reference into the text of your essay, saying, for example, “According to…” or “The author explains…”

- **NOTE:** Every in-text citation refers to a source in your Works Cited bibliography.
1. For MLA parenthetical in-text citations:
   Go to the ‘Sources’ page in your NoodleTools project and click the ‘Options’ to the right of your citation on your ‘Sources’ page and select ‘In-text reference’
2. **Copy & Paste the MLA in-text citation at the end of the sentence.**
   A box will pop up with the correct in-text citation format – in this example, MLA format calls for the article title in quotation marks. The full in-text citation goes inside the sentence before the period.

   You can see in the example below that you may combine traditional in-text citations with “out loud” source credits, and even direct quotation from the source.

   Experiencing occasional stress over school work is normal and may help students perform well on tests and assignments. But too much worry can be unhealthy, according to *Teen Health & Wellness*: “In a disorder, the emotional and physical anxious feeling stays with someone even though the stressful situation is no longer taking place” (“Academic Anxiety”).

   - In this example, note that MLA format requires article or webpage titles to be in quotation marks, while the names of larger works such as research databases, encyclopedias, and websites are italicized.
3. **Add a page number if your source is paginated** (meaning it has page numbers).

Type the page number or numbers into the box and NoodleTools will automatically fill it in:

You may credit your source by copying the MLA in-text citation from NoodleTools and pasting it at the end of your paraphrase, before the period, like this:

The release of pressure at plate margins caused by the movement of tectonic plates triggers more than a million earthquakes every year, although most go unnoticed because the ground vibrations are not strong enough to be felt ("Earthquake" 273).

Here is the same information using an **“out loud”** in-text citation – you may not need a parenthesis at the end of the sentence if your source does not have page numbers.

**In the GVRL article “Earthquake,” the author explains** that most of the one million earthquakes that occur each year are not even felt because the ground vibrations produced by plate movement are not strong enough (273).
4. For a source without page numbers:
   Either refer “out loud” to the source in the text or provide a formal MLA in-text parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence.

Here are two examples of the same material:

The website *This Dynamic Earth* notes that subducting plates in the ocean may trigger both earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

or

Subducting plates in the ocean may trigger both earthquakes and volcanic eruptions (“Understanding Plate”).