

# Integrating Source Material in MLA Format

## Why do we use source material in assignments?

Writing assignments often include a research element, and it's important to correctly format and cite the resources. The choice to use citations in your academic work shows your ability to read and understand your source material. Using quotes or paraphrasing shows that you can understand and communicate ideas that are not your own but are connected to your main point. In-text citations also show the student can find relevant research and reference it correctly and appropriately in their assignments.

## How to Create In-text Citations

The Modern Language Association (MLA) uses the **author-page method** for in-text citations. This means citations **must include the author's last name and the page number** of the direct quote or paraphrase **inside parentheses** at the end of the sentence (see examples below).

- Direct quotations are the exact words pulled from the source to show exactly what the author has said.
- Paraphrasing the source idea shows the student understands the idea and has chosen to explain in it a different way.
- Citations may appear anywhere in the sentence, and the format may change depending on how the sentence is constructed.

## How to Format

### 1. Direct quote from the material

*Example 1:* Madden claims the Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, and this reflects how “the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures in the third century” (54).

- In this example, the introductory phrase introduces the author's last name before directly quoting the idea, so **only** the page number is required at the end.

*Example 2:* The Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, and this reflects how “the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures in the third century” (Madden 54).

- In this alternate example, the introductory phrase **does not** introduce the author's last name before directly quoting the idea, so the author's last name **and** the page number are required inside the parentheses at the end.

### 2. Paraphrase the source idea in your own words

*Example:* The Hippodrome's value increased during the fourth century after Roman Emperor Constantine I relocated the Empire's administrative seat to ancient Byzantium in 324 A.D. (Madden 64).

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- Since the summary of the author's original idea/information in the student's own words appears on its own, the author's last name **and** page number are required at the end.

## 3. Create a combination of paraphrased and quoted material

*Example:* Bassett claims the Hippodrome was appropriately ornamented with the spoils of war for its role “as the didactic centerpiece of the new capital of an ancient empire” (96).

- Again, an introductory phrase introduces the author's last name before either paraphrasing or directly quoting the idea. In this example, **only** the page number is required at the end since the author has already been introduced.
- This method is particularly helpful if you combine paraphrasing with quotes since the first paraphrased idea and author's last name work together to introduce and integrate the direct quote smoothly.

## Keep in Mind...

- The same source can be used in multiple places throughout an assignment.
- The citation format will change when alternating between multiple sources.
- The first time a source is cited will look different in comparison to any additional citations that occur one after another from the same source.
- In contrast, if two or more different sources are alternated one after another, the citation format reverts to the “first time” format with each source.

## How to repeat citations from the same source

The first citation of any source **must** include the author's last name and page number. Subsequent citations from that same source only require the page number.

### The first citation:

Madden claims the Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, and this reflects how the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures in the third century (54).

### Subsequent citations from a different page:

Constantine I began revitalization projects on a monumental scale “to build a well-defended, well-supplied showplace” that served as “the administrative center of the Roman Empire” (65).

## How to alternate citations for different sources?

If you plan to use source material from more than author (for example, Madden and Bassett) throughout a paragraph, every time you switch authors you would revert to using the format for a “first time” citation. See the sample paragraphs below:

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The Hippodrome's original purpose as a chariot-racing circus personifies the ancient cultural and political values established during Constantine I's restoration during the fourth century AD. As Byzantines began accepting and emulating aspects of ancient Roman public life, this reflects the Hippodrome came to represent the fusion of eastern and western cultures (Madden 54). The Hippodrome's value increased considerably during the fourth century after Constantine I relocated the Roman Empire's administrative seat to ancient Byzantium in 324 (64). The Hippodrome mediated the emperor's relationship with the people during public games and represented the Empire's public image of increasing power and control throughout the Empire.

Constantine expanded the original Hippodrome's physical size and capacity, and these physical changes reflect the growing city size and population, too. Revitalization projects began on a monumental scale and had decorative artworks and monuments brought in from the far reaches of the Empire to beautify the space and reinforce the ideological power of the Empire's reach (Bassett 87). The cavea (seating) was reinforced and additional tiers of seating joined the newly completed southwest sphendone substructure that stretched down the hillside for increase crowd capacity (Madden 69, 70).

- The "first time" citation denotes the first use of Madden's work.
- The subsequent citation comes from same author.
- When alternating, the next, new source is also written in "first time" citation format – even if you've previously cited that author.



*This reference sheet was created for the Tutoring & Writing Center at Rollins College by Elizabeth Trepanier and Kyra Bauske.*