Internal Citations

When a researcher uses ideas of another—whether he directly copies or paraphrases, credit must be given to the source in an internal citation. This acknowledgement is an easy way to cite sources, eliminating the need for footnotes or endnotes. An author’s name and page number in the text lead readers to the Works Cited for more details. These parenthetical references must clearly match the corresponding information in the alphabetically arranged Works Cited, using whatever last name or title is first in each entry. The following are different ways to credit the necessary information in the sentence, yet assure quality writing.

*Italicize* titles of works published independently in order to follow current MLA style (2009). Note that works submitted for publication require the clarity provided by *underlining* titles in manuscripts.

1. **Insert the last name of the author and the page number(s) in parentheses in the text.**
   - This concept has been reported earlier (Baron 148).
   - “Hardened members of the media, people who’s covered wars, were crying, but John didn’t cry. He told his story like a man describing how he had fixed his lawn mower” (Riley 78).

2. **If the author’s name appears in the text, insert only the page number.** Never use first name alone. For clarity, make sure you use first and last name of author with the initial reference.
   - James Baron suggests that… Later in the paragraph he theorizes…(148).
   - Rick Reilly expresses his “most gripping press conference” with John Ralston, the 27-year-old adventurer who saved his own life by cutting off his lower arm with a pocketknife (78).
   - According to Rick Reilly, John Ralston “told his story like a man describing how he fixed his lawn mower” (78).

3. **If a text is written by multiple authors, place both last names with page numbers in the internal citation or put both names within the sentence followed by page numbers only.**
   - Goodling and Niering have reported annual wetlands productivity in Georgia’s Alcovy River Swamp equals roughly a $3.1 million impact (4-7).
   - According to recent research at Georgia Tech, annual wetlands productivity in Georgia’s Alcovy River Swamp equals roughly a $3.1 million impact (Goodling and Niering 4-7).

4. **If a summary comes from several sources or if several sources fully agree on a fact, all sources may appear in a single citation. Separate the alphabetized sources by semicolons.**
   - Farmers, environmentalists, and government agree that agriculture is to blame for 87% of recent wetland losses (“Saving Swamps” 44; Tiner 32; Walter 28).

5. **If you use indirect information, give credit to the secondary source in the internal citation, using the abbreviation for quoted (qtd.) with the source name and page.**
   - (For authenticity, mention the original source, as well.)
     
   As Chief Seattle said in 1854, “Whatever happens to beasts soon happens to man” (qtd. in Walter 40).

6. **An unsigned work is listed by the title or a shortened version of the title in parentheses.**
This is the same format of a no author internet or other electronic source.

- Earlier labeled “the Rodney Dangerfield of the environment,” wetlands are gaining respect as an integral part of life’s interdependence (“Importance” 2).
  Note: This citation is the connection to the actual full title listed alphabetically on Works Cited page: “The Importance of Wetlands.” USA Today June 1989: 2.

- Staggering statistics are given by Jon Kusler concerning the Mississippi flyway; “[s]ince 1950 over 4.5 million acres of wetlands have been lost” (“Roles” 43).
  Note: This citation is the connection to the actual full title listed alphabetically on Works Cited page: Kusler, Jon A. “Roles Along the River.” Environment Sept. 1985: 18-20+.

7. If two different works by the same author appear on the Works Cited page, the author, a shortened version of the title (separated by commas), and the page numbers should be included in the parentheses.
- Most humans experience depression, often for reasons unknown to them (Rogers, Psychology, 171-173). Additional delays in seeking treatment lie in the basic stereotypes and misunderstanding of depression by the rest of the family and society in general (Rogers, The Most Misunderstood Epidemic, 230).

- To further complicate the problem of clear definition, William Niering explains, wetlands change, becoming marshes, wet meadows, eventually shrubs or tree-filled swamps (“Swamp” 8). Niering further explains that “a one-acre swamp with only a foot of water will retain 330,000 gallons (Wetlands 43).

8. When using classic fiction as a source, list the page number and the chapter in parentheses, separating the elements with a semicolon.
The opening words of Melville’s symbolic novel Moby Dick, “Call me Ishmael,” quickly identify the narrator (1; ch.1).

9. When using plays as sources, list the Act, scene, and line numbers in parentheses, separating each element with a period.
   Note that, as usual, end punctuation is outside the parentheses unless the quotation punctuation is a question mark or exclamation point.
   Her motto is Shakespeare’s good advice from Hamlet: “To thine own self be true” (I.iii.78).
   As Puck says in A Midsummer Night’s Dream: “Lord, what fools these mortals be!” (III.ii.115).
   [You may use (3.2.115) for an alternate format]

10. The last name of an interviewee is placed in parentheses or incorporated into the text.
   Darlene Cramer’s advice was to “never gossip in your shop. It is okay to talk with them, but never repeat what someone else has confided in you.” Also, “if you have your own business in your home, people think you never sleep; and therefore, they will call whenever or—worse yet—just drop in” (Cramer).