Citing from the Humanities Textbook
Machiavelli

Parenthetical Citation Examples

Example 1

Machiavelli claims that a good ruler “ought not to quit good courses if he can help it, but should know how to follow evil courses if he must” (40; 168-69).

- This example uses a blended sentence in which the quotation from the story is blended into the writer’s own sentence structure, with capitalization and punctuation reflecting that sentence structure created.

- This example includes the author’s name (Machiavelli) in the signal phrase. Therefore, the parenthetical citation for this source requires only the page number (40) and the line numbers (168-69). (Note: For the first reference to a source named in a signal phrase, use the source’s full name as given. Subsequent references to the same named source can shorten to the last name only in the signal phrase.)

- Notice that a semicolon is used to separate the page number from the line numbers. The end period gets placed after the parenthetical citation.

Example 2

A good ruler “ought not to quit good courses if he can help it, but should know how to follow evil courses if he must” (Machiavelli 40; 168-69).

- This example uses a blended sentence in which the quotation from the story is blended into the writer’s own sentence structure, with capitalization and punctuation reflecting that sentence structure created.

- This example does not include the author’s name in the signal phrase. Therefore, the parenthetical citation for this source requires the author’s last name (Machiavellli), the page number (40), and the line numbers (168-69).

- Notice that a semicolon is used to separate the page number from the line numbers. However, use just a space (no additional punctuation) between the author’s last name and the page number. The end period gets placed after the parenthetical citation.
Work Cited Entry


Author
- The author is the person who wrote the words being quoted. In this case, Niccolo Machiavelli wrote the words quoted above.
- As with all MLA work cited entries, begin with the author’s last name, add a comma, then include the author’s first name.
- Separate the author’s name from the next part of the work cited entry with a period.

Title of Source
- The title of the source is the title of the work the quoted words come from. The words quoted above are found in “From Machiavelli’s The Prince.” The words are not material from the textbook itself.
- Because the source is a shorter work, the title is placed in quotation marks.
- A period appears within the quotation marks to signify the end of the title.

Title of Source’s Container
- The source’s container is the work that contains the source. The textbook The Humanistic Tradition contains “From Machiavelli’s The Prince.”
- Because a textbook is a larger work, the title is italicized.
- A comma is the appropriate punctuation for separating the title of the container from the rest of the information about the container.

Container’s Other Contributors
- The words “written by” are added before the container’s author’s name to indicate the type of contribution Gloria K. Fiero made.
- The names of any contributors are listed normally: first name, middle name, last name.
- Use a comma to separate this piece of information from the next.

Container’s Version
- Use an ordinal number to signify the edition.
- The word “edition” is abbreviated.
- Use a comma to separate this piece of information from the next.

Container’s Number
- In this instance, the textbook is one of a collection of books. To indicate which one is being cited, the book number is added.
- The word “book” is abbreviated.
- Use a comma to separate this piece of information from the next.

Container’s Publisher
- Use a comma to separate this piece of information from the next.

Container’s Publication Date
- Use a comma to separate this piece of information from the next.

Location of Source within the Container
- A “pp.” appears as an abbreviation for the page numbers the source appears on in the container.
- Conclude the citation with a period.