MLA Style In-Text Citations

What is an in-text citation?
An in-text citation allows you to briefly show where you found research or information. You have two options for in-text citations: you can either introduce the author in a signal phrase (recommended for the introduction of a source) or include the author’s name in your parenthetical reference. With both of these options, you must include the source’s page numbers.

Examples:
   Option 1, author named in signal phrase:
   Julie Tannen has argued this point (178).

   Option 2, author named in parenthetical reference:
   This point has already been argued (Tannen, 178).

Further guidelines: two authors, three or more authors, author unknown, page number unknown.

1. Two authors: use option 1 or 2 above, including “and” between last names.
   Kizza and Ssanyu note that “employee monitoring is a dependable, capable, and very affordable process of electronically or otherwise recording all employee activities at work” and elsewhere (2).

2. Three or more authors: use option 1 or 2 above, and give the first author’s name followed by “et al.”
   Studies show that many estimates of current amphibian populations are greatly exaggerated (Blaine et al. 32).

3. Author unknown: use option 1 or 2 above, giving the title of the work instead of the author’s name.
   According to the *Wild Book of Wild Animals*, The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus is in grave danger of becoming extinct (42).

4. Page number unknown or one-page source: when you are citing a source and you don’t know the page number, simply list the author. When you are citing a one-paged source, list the single page number in addition to the author.

*More questions? Ask them at the Gillette College Writing Center!*
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