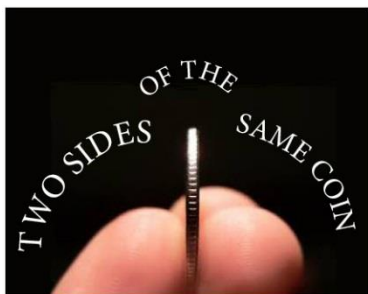# Parenthetical Citations and Works Cited Pages

Parenthetical citations and a **works cited page** are like two sides of the same coin. In MLA-style papers, you need parenthetical citations *and* a corresponding works cited page to ensure correct documentation of source material. Lacking one of these elements results in plagiarism.

What are parenthetical citations?

Parenthetical citations (also called **in-text citations**) place source information in parentheses within the sentences of a research-based paper. Parenthetical citations should be provided *every time* you summarize, paraphrase, or directly quote source material. Here is an example of a sentence that contains a parenthetical citation:

> Since cultural sensitivity courses became mandatory for all police officers in San Diego, complaints of racial profiling have decreased by 40% (Coleman 12).

In the above example, the parenthetical citation "(Coleman 12)" lets the readers know that this information came from the author Coleman and can be found on page 12. Notice that this parenthetical citation sits *within* the sentence and is followed by the period for the sentence.

If you are citing a source with no known author and/or page number, then instead of placing the author's name in the parenthetical citation, you will simply include the source title in quotation marks, if it is an article or a webpage, like this:

> All Philadelphia police officers are required to live within the city; this ensures that the police officers have connections with the communities they protect ("Black Lives Matter in Philadelphia").

What is a Works Cited page?

Complete bibliographic information for every source you included in your essay must appear on a **works cited page** at the end of your essay. That is, if you included a parenthetical citation for a source, then the complete information for how to locate that source *must* be listed on your essay's works cited page. You should never list a source on your works cited page that was not referenced within your paper.

The format of a MLA-style works cited page is very particular. You should reference chapter 25 in your *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers* for exact guidelines on how to format your works cited entries. Below is just one example of a works cited entry for a newspaper article that was accessed online:

Works Cited

Coleman, Susan. "Mandatory Classes Lead to Reduced Complaints of Racial Profiling." *San Diego Times.* San Diego Times, 20 Apr. 2016. Web. 29 Sep. 2016.

Works cited entries should be listed in alphabetical order and double-spaced with a hanging indent. It is best to reference chapter 25 of your *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers* for the specific guidelines for each type of source, but you can also use online tools like www.EasyBib.com, www.BibMe.org, and www.citationmachine.net to help you format your works cited list according to the MLA guidelines.