**MLA In-Text Citation Guide**

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS APPEAR AFTER QUOTED OR PARAPHRASED INFORMATION**. The two key features of an MLA-style in-text citation are the following:

1. The in-text citation generally requires the **author’s last name** and the **page number** (if available) from which the cited information comes (unless the author’s name is evident from the context, in which case a page number is all that is required).
2. **No comma** is placed between the author name and page number, and the **period appears after the citation** (except for long quotes, which are indented—see below for further information).

**Basic format** (author’s last name + page number in citation):  
The narrator observes that “a fully dressed woman walked out of the water” (Morrison 50).

Willie reflects, “I felt the world around me creak and strain, snapping apart, fiber by fiber, like a rope pulled too tautly” (Groff 2).

**Format with author’s name in signal phrase** (page number alone in citation):  
Morrison’s narrator observes that “a fully dressed woman walked out of the water” (50).

Groff emphasizes Willie’s anxiety through figurative language: “I felt the world around me creak and strain, snapping apart, fiber by fiber, like a rope pulled too tautly” (2).

**COMMON STRUCTURES FOR SIGNAL PHRASES**

Writers can use signal phrases in several ways when they introduce quoted or cited material into their texts. Below are some of the most common:

**According to** Morrison, “...”

Morrison **suggests** that “...”

As Hacker **points out** in her introduction, “...”

After **observing** that “...,” Vandenberg goes on to **hypothesize** that “...”

Editor David Nadelberg **offers** a tongue-in-cheek explanation of the teen diary phenomenon: “...”

**COMMON VERBS FOR SIGNAL PHRASES**

acknowledges

comments

adds compares

admits

concludes

argues

confirms

asserts

contends

believes

continues

claims

declares

denies

describes

disputes

emphasizes

explains

finds

grants

hypothesizes

points out

illustrates

proposes

implies

reasons

insists

refutes

notes

rejects

notices

reports

observes

responds

shows

studies

suggests

write