HOW TO INCORPORATE RESEARCH INTO YOUR PAPER – MLA (8th ed.)

There are THREE ways to incorporate research while writing your paper.

Paraphrasing:
Paraphrasing involves putting a passage from research material into your own words. You must still cite the original resource when you paraphrase. MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page.

Examples:
Smith argues that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).
This argument has been countered by the current spike in gun violence in America (Jones 4).

Short Quotations:
To indicate short quotations (fewer than four typed lines) in your text, enclose the quotation within double quotation marks. Provide the author and specific page in your citation. Punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons should appear after the parenthetical citation.

Examples:
According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).
It is possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184).

Long Quotations:
For quotations that are more than four lines, place quotations in a free-standing block of text. Do not use quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented one inch from the left margin; maintain double-spacing. Your citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

Example:
Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:
They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

At the end of your paper, include an alphabetized list of Works Cited (see MLA-APA Chart Handout). Every resource you cite within the body of your paper must be included in your Works Cited. If you do not use a resource in your paper, do not include it in your references.

Compiled from the Purdue OWL “In-Text Citations: The Basics” https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/