Citing a Letter from a Database in NoodleTools

**Primary Source Letter**

**Secondary Source Commentary**

**Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt Asking for Baby Clothes**

*Women in America, 1999*  
*From U.S. History in Context*

**Commentary on Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt Asking for Baby Clothes**

During the Great Depression women had such faith in First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt that one woman wrote to her asking for a list of baby clothes and diapers. She painfully urged Mrs. Roosevelt to send these items privately, for "I would rather no one knew about it."

After 1933, women in the workforce benefited from Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt's political alliance with the unions. Also, the Roosevelt Administration's New Deal introduced social security and unemployment insurance to the nation for the first time. Eleanor Roosevelt, who had felt like an "outsider" even since she was a little girl, had great sympathy for minorities, the unemployed, and "new" women who were attempting to forge careers in the professions against stiff discrimination. (This group suffered setbacks during the Depression, although women working in white-collar office and sales jobs, and occupations in the emerging service economy were more likely to hold onto their jobs.) The First Lady also convinced her husband to add more women to his administration.

**Woman's Letter To Eleanor Roosevelt Asking for Baby Clothes**


Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

About a month ago I wrote you asking if you would buy some baby clothes for me with the understanding that I was to repay you as soon as my husband got enough work. Several weeks later I received a reply to apply to a Welfare Association so I might receive the aid I needed. Do you remember?
Under Sources, Click + Create new citation
Select **database**.
Select Letter or Memo
Citation has 2 Containers:

- Database
- Letter
Use the pull-down menu to select the database.
Copy/paste the full URL. Look for a permalink, if available.

URL
The 8th edition of the MLA Handbook recommends you include a URL, but if your instructor asks you to leave it out, follow his or her directions.

What URL should I use?

Copy the Bookmark URL and paste it into another document.

Fill in the date you last accessed the letter online.
Complete using information about the original letter (primary source).
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Who wrote the letter?
Be sure to use Author role.

Sincerely yours, Mrs. H. E. C.
Recipient

Who is the letter addressed to?

Be sure to use Recipient role.

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About a month ago I wrote you asking if you would buy some baby clothes for me with the understanding that I was to repay you as soon as my husband got enough work. Several weeks later I received a reply to apply to a Welfare Association so I might receive the aid I needed. Do you remember?

Please Mrs. Roosevelt, I do not want charity, only a chance from someone who will trust me until we can get enough money to repay the amount spent for the things I need. As a proof that I really am sincere, I am sending you two of my dearest possessions to keep as security, a ring my husband gave me before we were married, and a ring my mother used to wear. Perhaps the actual value of them is not high, but they are worth a lot to me. If you will consider buying the baby clothes, please keep them (rings) until I send you the money you spent. It is very hard to face bearing a baby we cannot afford to have, and the fact that it is due to arrive soon, and still there is no money for the hospital or clothing, does not make it any easier. I have decided to stay home. Keeping my 7 year old daughter from school to help with the smaller children when my husband has work. The oldest little girl is sick now, and has never been strong, so I would not depend on her. The 7 year old one is a good willing little worker and somehow we must manage—but without charity.

If you feel you cannot trust me, it is alright and I can only say I do not blame you, but if you decide my word is worth anything so small a security, here is a list of what I will need—but I will need it very soon.
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If you still feel you cannot trust me, it is all right and I can only say I do not blame you, but if you decide my word is worth anything with so small a security, here is a list of what I will need—but I will need it very soon.
Click Submit
Here is the completed citation. You may always go back and edit.
Under **Options**, Click **Edit annotation** to create the annotation for this source.
Under **Options**, Click **In-text reference** for help with Parenthetical Citations

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**MLA Parenthetical Reference**

**Example for your source**
A parenthetical reference to this Letter or Memo might look like this:

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...the end of your sentence (H.E.C. [Page #]).
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Customize the example:

**Page number(s):** _______

*Note: If the database does not provide page numbers from the original print source, omit the page number(s) from your in-text reference.

**Note:** This is not the only way to write this parenthetical reference. For example, you might include the author or title of the work in your sentence already (see Rule 2). Please read the additional rules below to be sure you are writing your reference correctly.

**What is a parenthetical reference?**
A parenthetical reference is a reference within the body of your paper to one of the sources listed in your Works Cited list. It indicates to your reader exactly what you quoted or paraphrased from the source, and specifically where it can be found. You need to write a parenthetical, or "in-text" reference, whether you quote the material directly from the source, paraphrase it in your own words, or refer to an idea derived from the material.