Parenthetical Citation

Joseph W. Rodgers Library
Cheltenham High School

All information taken from any outside source must be acknowledged and documented: direct quotations, ideas, information, paraphrases, summaries and any other material that the reader might otherwise think is yours. Common knowledge (such as, Harrisburg is the capitol of Pennsylvania) does not require documentation.

Parenthetical citations are found within the body of your report, and are an alternative to endnotes or footnotes. It is important to include enough information in your citation to lead the reader to a specific source in your list of works cited or bibliography. The beginning of your parenthetical citation uses the first words(s) found in your Works Cited. In most cases, the author's last name and the page number(s) are enough.

All examples and additional information on parenthetical citation can be found in:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed.

New York: Modern Language Association, 2003.

ADDITIONAL HELP

- Make parenthetical citations brief and accurate.
- To avoid long parenthetical citations, place reference information, such as the author's name, in your sentence.
- Place a citation as close to the relevant material as possible without disrupting the flow of your writing.
- Use one citation at the end of a long section of material that comes from one source and the same pages(s)--do not cite at the end of each sentence in this case.
- Parenthetical citations always go **outside** a quotation and always **before** a punctuation mark, such as a period.
- Place the parenthetical citations in your essay as you write--do not wait until the essay is finished.

Citing an entire work

Include in the text, rather than parenthetical reference, the name of the person (e.g. author, editor, director, performer.)

Fukuyama's Our Posthuman Future includes many examples of this trend.

Citing part of a work:

Book with one author

- Cite the **author and page number** of quoted or paraphrased information,

  For many Americans, "consuming has become our strongest habit and our favorite pastime" (Crone 59).

- Cite only the page number placed within parentheses if the **author is named in your sentence**.

EXAMPLE: Meredith Crone claims that "consuming has become our strongest habit and our favorite pastime" (59).

- Cite a partial title (either underlined or in italics) if you are citing **two or more books by the same author** listed in your works cited.
  EXAMPLES: (Hemingway, For Whom 135) (Hemingway, *A Farewell* 64)

- Cite the last name of the first author followed by et. Al or use the last names of all authors, if a book has **more than one author**.
  EXAMPLES: (Baker et al. 35) (Baker, Smith and Landers 25)

- Cite the first and last names if the works cited has authors with the same last name.
  EXAMPLES: (Ernest Hemingway 18) (John Hemingway 127)

NEWSPAPER

- Cite author, section of newspaper, and page number.
  EXAMPLE: (Bellow 1A, 3)

ELECTRONIC SOURCE

- Cite author's last name (or title of article if author is not stated) and paragraph number since most electronic documents do not contain page numbers.
  EXAMPLE: (Sohmer, par. 44)

PLAY

- Cite author, act, scene and lines
  EXAMPLE: (Miller 3.2. 56-59) [Author, Act 3, Scene 2, lines 56-59]

MULTIVOLUME WORK

- Separate volume from page NUMBER by a colon and a space.
  EXAMPLE: (Curley 2: 178)

INDIRECT SOURCES

Whenever you can, take material from the original source, not a secondhand one. If you are citing an author who was quoted by another author, include both names. First, give the name of the author whose words you are citing, followed by *qtd. In* ("quoted in"). Then, give the name of the author of the source you used.

EXAMPLE: (Hemingway qtd. in. Standin 135)

If you include the author whose words you are quoting in your text, you do not need to include the author's name again in your citation.

EXAMPLE: (qtd. in. Standin 135)

- Consecutive citations from the same source require a standard citation for the first, but those immediately following only need to list the page number for that source. Once a different source is used the standard citation of author and page must again be used.

- If the source is an **unsigned magazine, newspaper, encyclopedia, CD-ROM, or website**, use identifying words from the beginning of the title of the article in quotation marks for identification of source.
  EXAMPLE: ("School Sports" 125)