

## PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

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 citation is found within the body of your report, and is 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 bibliographic citation. In most cases, the author's last name and the page number(s) are enough. Place the citation as close as possible to the information to which it refers.

### General Guidelines

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- 📖 Use one citation at the end of a long section of material that comes from one source and the same page(s); do not cite at the end of each sentence in this case.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

### A BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR

Cite the author and page number of the quoted or paraphrased information within parentheses at the end of your sentence that contains that information.

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

~ If the author is named in your sentence only the page number is placed within parentheses.

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

## **TWO OR MORE BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR**

Give a partial title if there are two or more books by the same author listed in your works cited or bibliography. The title should be in *italics*.

**EXAMPLE: (Hemingway, *A Farewell* 64)**

## **A BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS**

Cite the last name of the first author followed by *et al.* (meaning *and others*) or use the last name of all authors.

**EXAMPLE: (Baker *et al.* .35) (Baker, Smith and Landers 25)**

## **AUTHORS WITH SAME LAST NAME**

Cite the first and last names of both authors.

**EXAMPLE: (Ernest Hemingway 18) (John Hemingway 127)**

## **MULTI-VOLUME WORK**

Separate volume from page by a colon. **EXAMPLE: (Curley 2: 178)**

## **AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER**

Cite author, section of newspaper and page number.

**EXAMPLE: (Bellow 1 A, 3)**

## **CD-ROM**

Cite author, or if none stated, the title of the article.

**EXAMPLE: (Lankin)**

## **AUTHOR QUOTED BY ANOTHER AUTHOR**

Cite both names, first giving the name of the author whose words you are citing, followed by "qtd. in." Then, give the name of the author of the source you used.

**EXAMPLE: (Hemingway qtd. in. Stanton 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. Stanton 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.

## **ONLINE SOURCE**

Cite the author's last name (or title of article, if author is not stated) because few electronic documents contain page numbers.

**EXAMPLE: (Clark)**

## **UNKNOWN AUTHOR**

If the source is an unsigned magazine, newspaper, encyclopedia, CD-ROM or Internet site, use identifying words from the beginning of the title of the article in quotation marks and page number if known.

**EXAMPLE: ("School Sports" 125)**

## **SECTION FROM A PLAY**

FORMAT: (Author, Act 3, Scene 2, lines 56-59)

**EXAMPLE: (Miller 3.2. 56-59)**

Information taken from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed. New York: Modern Language Association 1999