

Parenthetical Citations: The Nitty-Gritty

What is parenthetical citation?

Parenthetical citations are a system for giving credit to authors and their work. Parenthetical citations are meant to direct the reader to the writer's sources on the Works Cited page. Citations help the writer avoid plagiarism and help the reader explore the writer's sources. (If your reader wanted to find an article, book, or website you mentioned in your paper, they can!)

When do I include a parenthetical citation?

You have to use parenthetical citations every time you use information from your sources. Whenever you directly quote or paraphrase an author's ideas, you must give them credit within the text of your research paper. You should have at least one citation per paragraph.

What if I am mentioning common knowledge?

You do not need to include citations for common knowledge.
(Example: President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963.)

Where do I put the parenthetical citation?

The citation goes at the end of the sentence or sentences where the quotation or paraphrase appears.

What goes into a parenthetical citation?

How do I cite a book or article with one author?

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

What if I already mentioned the author in the sentences I am citing?

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

What If my source has two or three authors?

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

What if my source has four or more authors?

For a source with more than three authors, provide the first author's last name followed by et al. or list all the last names in the body of your paper.

Jones et al. counter Smith, Yang, and Moore's argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).

Jones, Driscoll, Ackerson, and Bell counter Smith, Yang, and Moore's argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).

What if my entry on the Works Cited page does not have an author?

That's okay! When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. If the title is italicized on the Works Cited page, then italicize it in the parenthesis. If the title is in quotation marks on the Works Cited page, then put it in quotations marks in the parenthesis.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

I am citing a website. What do I do?

For a website, include in parenthesis the FIRST item that appears on the Works Cited page. It may be the author's name or it may be the website's name or the article's title. An in-text citation should never a hyperlink.

Please note: If a page number doesn't exist, please don't make one up!

Adapted from the Purdue Owl website. For more information, please visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>.

From Works Cited to Parenthetical Citations

Directions: Below, please find a sample Works Cited page and the coordinating in-text citations. Please note that your Works Cited page should NOT have handwritten or typed in-text citations next to it. The handwritten citations below are just examples for you to consider.

Works Cited

"Blueprint Lays Out Clear Path for Climate Action." *Environmental Defense Fund*.

Environmental Defense Fund, 8 May 2007. Web. 24 May 2009.

Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *New York Times*. New York

Times, 22 May 2007. Web. 25 May 2009.

Gowdy, John. "Avoiding Self-organized Extinction: Toward a Co-evolutionary Economics of

Sustainability." *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*

14.1 (2007): 27-36. Print.

Heisey, David. *Being a Principal*. New York: Springer, 2011. Print.

An Inconvenient Truth. Dir. Davis Guggenheim. Perf. Al Gore, Billy West. Paramount, 2006.

DVD.

Leroux, Marcel. *Global Warming: Myth Or Reality?: The Erring Ways of Climatology*. New

York: Springer, 2005. Print.