

Parenthetical Citations Survival Guide

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Introduction:

There are two ways to identify sources in a research paper:

1. A Works Cited page at the end of the paper
2. Parenthetical Citations *inside* the paper

Where Do You Need To Include Parenthetical Citations?

You will need a parenthetical citation after:

1. Every quote
2. Every Paraphrase of someone else's writing
3. Other people's beliefs, opinions, and ideas
4. Facts, studies, or surveys

You will NOT need a parenthetical citation after:

1. Your own opinion or analysis of an issue
2. Common knowledge (facts or ideas that can be found in many sources *or* things most people know... Examples: Teenagers are sleepy in the morning. Baseball is America's pastime. People hate paying taxes.)

THE FOUR MAJOR RULES OF PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

RULE #1: INCLUDE THE AUTHOR'S LAST NAME AND PAGE NUMBER IF THE AUTHOR'S NAME ISN'T MENTIONED IN THE SENTENCE. *The period always goes after the citation because it is considered part of the sentence!*

Examples:

A 2012 study found "students at Mehlville High School have larger brains than most teenagers" (Abdullaev 21).

The police report stated, "Mr. Maxfield has been charged with boring five students to death during English class" (Allen 2).

Human rights groups argued that research papers should be considered "cruel and unusual punishment against students" (Eberhardt 4).

RULE #2: IF YOU HAVE USED THE AUTHOR'S NAME (OR SOURCE TITLE) IN THE SENTENCE, YOU ONLY NEED TO INCLUDE THE PAGE NUMBER. *The period always goes after the citation because it is considered part of the sentence!*

Examples:

According to education professor James Twillman, teachers should "force students to write a research paper every two months" (12).

Psychologist Destin Juelfs disagreed with Twillman's research. "His report conflicts with the results of at least ten other studies," Juelfs responded (41).

RULE #3: IF THERE IS NO AUTHOR, AND THE ARTICLE IS PRINTED OFF OF A WEBSITE, USE ONE OR TWO KEY WORDS FROM THE TITLE. ***The period always goes after the citation because it is considered part of the sentence!***

Examples:

Several websites, including Purdue University's OWL Online Writing Lab, promise to "provide students with excellent advice on citing sources in a research paper" ("Writing Research").

Professor Alexander Giang discovered that "25% of all research papers are eaten by the family dog the night before the due date" ("Yummy").

RULE #4: IF YOU ARE QUOTING AN INDIRECT SOURCE, YOU MUST IDENTIFY WHO SAID THE QUOTE **AND** IDENTIFY THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. ***The period always goes after the citation because it is considered part of the sentence!***

Examples:

Using at least four sources, according to Sumea Hodzic, seemed "necessary and reasonable for a research paper" (qtd. in Stotler 3).

Computer engineer Jason Landwehr announced, "I have created a software program to help teachers grade research papers" (qtd. In "Invention").

During his election night speech, President Jakob Butenhoff said, "We will rebuild the American economy within the next four years" (qtd. in "Economy").

Introducing Quotes:

Please avoid using the word said over and over again. Use other words that mean the same thing.

Examples:

...noted, reported, replied, argued, observed, concluded, agreed, compared, commented, insisted, responded, emphasized, contended, added, announced, suggested, declared, claimed... and the list goes on!

Dealing With Long Quotations:

If your quotation stretches more than four lines, you must format the quote in a specific way. Follow these rules:

1. Indent the left margin an extra inch.
2. Double-space the quote
3. Do not use quotation marks
4. Insert parenthetical reference at the end.

See me if you have this situation! I will help you through it.

What If I Don't Use Parenthetical Citations?

Using facts and quotes without parenthetical citations constitutes **plagiarism**. Failure to use any parenthetical citations meets my definition of plagiarism. Teachers and administrators consider plagiarism to be a **very serious matter!!!**