



APA Style Parenthetical Documentation or In-text Citations

It sounds painful, but it doesn't have to be! Basically parenthetical documentation or in-text citations means that you are telling the reader where you got any and all information that did not come from inside your own head. This is more obvious when you are directly quoting from a source, but it is also needed when you have summarized or paraphrased from a source and even if you got an idea from somewhere else.

So how do you do it? As the names imply, you are going to put the information about the source in parentheses in the text of your paper as opposed to a footnote where the source information is at the bottom of the page or an endnote where it goes at the end of your paper. There are slight differences depending on which style you are using - APA or MLA.

Basically you only need to list the author's last name and the publication year. Only use page numbers for a direct quote. Make sure the source information in parentheses matches with your works cited. If an entire portion of your paper is referencing one source, cite the author and year the first time and then just the author after that. If you are going back and forth between different sources, you need to cite the author each time you switch. In order to avoid plagiarism, it is extremely important that you cite all words and ideas that you got from somewhere else. If your quote is longer than forty words, set it off in a block text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch, and do not add quotation marks. At the end of the quote put the period after the last word of the sentence followed by the parentheses.

**Note that the punctuation for the sentence goes AFTER the parenthesis.

Examples:

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| ▪ Quote with author's name in text | Smith (2006) states that, "... " (p. 112). |
| ▪ Quote with author's name in reference | This is quoted as, "... " (Smith, 2006, pp. 112-4). |
| ▪ Paraphrasing with author's name in text | Smith (2006) stated these facts, too. |
| ▪ Paraphrasing author's name in reference | This fact has been stated (Smith, 2006). |
| ▪ No author - give title of work abbreviated to first major word | This book is true (<i>Long</i> , 2005). |
| | This article is true ("Long," 2005). |
| | <i>Italics</i> for books, "quotation marks" for articles |
| ▪ Citing entire website - put URL | This has evidence (www.pubmed.gov). |
| ▪ Quote from website - use paragraph number | According to, "... " (Smith, 2000, para. 4). |
| ▪ More than one author with same last name | P. L. Smith (2003) and J. M. Smith (2005) |
| ▪ Source has more than one author in text | Smith and Lee agree that (2006) |
| ▪ Source has more than one author in reference | This is agreed upon (Smith & Long, 2006). |
| ▪ Citing more than one work | We all agree (Smith 2006; Lee 2004). |

Please see the following handbook on reserve in the Library for more information:

American Psychological Association. *Publication manual of the American psychological association*. 5th ed
Washington, D.C.: Author, 2001.