

Parenthetical Citations

Parenthetical citations indicate to the reader that the words or information you are using are someone else's writing, theory, or opinion. Without citations, you, the writer, are implying that it is all your own words. It is very difficult to research a topic that has not been written and thought about before. Incorporating ideas and words from others may promote your own position. It is, however, imperative to cite the author if the words are not your own. *It is, as a matter of fact, illegal and dishonest not to cite others when using their words or opinions.*

You should use citations for both quotations and for ideas of others that you have rephrased into your own words (paraphrasing). If you do not cite the information and allow the reader to believe it is your opinion and words, you are plagiarizing.

Use the first word in your bibliography for your parenthetical reference. Include the page number, if available. Put the ending punctuation for the sentence outside the parenthetical reference, not at the end of the sentence.

The following examples show how to cite information in your paper so that you are giving proper credit to the source. The corresponding bibliography is on the following page.

Examples:

“Take a chair in a terrace bar in Bilbao's old town, the Casco Viejo, and you can see sword dances” (Thomas).

The movie You've Got Mail was, essentially, a giant advertisement for AOL (Croteau 65).

Johnny Cash had a strong influence on Nirvana (Perrin).

“More than this, travelers often provide some insight into how their own society understood itself in relation to other cultures” (Internet). (Note that Internet is the first word of the website listed in the bibliography on the previous page, not a reference to where you found the article.)

Times when you do not need to include the author's name

If you have mentioned the author in the text of your paper, you do not need to repeat his or her name in the parenthetical reference. Just refer to the page number, if there is one. There is no page number for an interview.

Examples:

Croteau believes that You've Got Mail was essentially an ad for AOL (65).

Perrin believes that Johnny Cash was one of Nirvana's strongest influences.

Resources for MLA citation format and bibliography format include:

- The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th edition
- Writers INC
- A CVU Librarian
- Landmarks Citation Machine (<http://citationmachine.net/>)