

Why we use parenthetical / in-text citations

Researchers place brief parenthetical descriptions to acknowledge which parts of their paper reference particular sources. Generally, you want to provide the last name of the author and the specific page numbers of the source. If such information is already given in the body of the sentence, then exclude it from the parenthetical citation.

Place the parenthetical citation where there is a pause in the sentence - normally before the end of a sentence or a comma. The in-text citation will differ depending on how much information you provide within the sentence.

Example with author's name in text:

Johnson argues this point (12-13).

Example without author's name in text:

This point had already been argued (Johnson 12-13).

Citing sources with more than one author

If you use sources with the same author surnames, then include a first name initial. If the two sources have authors with the same initials, then include their full names.

(J. Johnson 12-13).

- or (John Johnson 12-13).
- If there are two or three authors of the source, include their last names in the order they appear on the source.

(Smith, Wollensky, and Johnson 45).

If there are more than three authors, you can cite all the authors with their last name, or you can cite the first author followed by "et al." Follow what is shown the works cited list.

(Smith et al. 45).

Citing sources without an author

Some sources do not have authors or contributors - for instance, when you cite 37 ms6(m)6(e)11(s)



Citing part of a work

When citing a specific part of a work, provide the relevant page or section identifier. This can include specific pages, sections, paragraphs or volumes. When the identifier is preceded by an abbreviation or word, place a comma between the identifier and the source reference.

When citing a specific page(s) of a multivolume work, precede the page number by the volume number and a colon. Do not separate by a comma.

It was arguably the most innovative period in history (Webster 4:12-15).



If you reference more than one source by the same author, distinguish the parenthetical