

Parenthetical/In-Text Citation (The following pages are adapted from a variety of resources.)

You must provide parenthetical documentation whenever you:

- Use a direct quotation.
- Paraphrase, that is, express in your own words, ideas or opinions that are not your own original thoughts.
- Summarize in your own words information or ideas.

You do NOT need documentation for an idea or information that is:

- Your own opinion, arrived at independently. For example:
 - Snowboarding attracts more risk-takers than does downhill skiing.
- Common knowledge or an undisputed fact (rule of thumb: found in 5 sources). For example:
 - Columbus sailed west in 1492 in the hope of discovering a new route to Asia.

To provide parenthetical documentation, give the source, usually just the author's last name and the page number, within parenthesis, after the borrowed material in your paper. For example:

During the Middle Ages, people thought of the labyrinth in art as something enjoyable, exemplifying both God's creation and human artistry (Doob 144).

The parenthetical citation – (Doob 144) – shows that the information about this view of labyrinths comes from page 144 of a book by Doob. The works cited page at the end of your paper will provide complete publication information about this book. For example:

Doob, Penelope Reed. *The Idea of the Labyrinth from Classical Antiquity through the Middle Ages*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1990. Print.

General Guidelines

- The information in **parenthetical citations** must match the corresponding information on the **works cited** page.
- The parenthetical citation usually appears **at the end of the sentence**, as close as possible to the material it documents, so that it does not interrupt the flow of writing.
- If the author's name appears in a sentence in your paper, then you should **not** repeat it in the citation. For example:
 - **Orwell** made this point earlier in "Shooting an Elephant" (65-66).
- Parenthetical citations should be as brief and as few as clarity and accuracy permit. Give only the essential information, and do not add parenthetical references unnecessarily.
- The parenthetical citation **precedes the punctuation mark** that concludes the sentence, clause, or phrase containing the borrowed material. For example:
 - In his essay on cannibals, Montaigne mentions the disappearance of the great island of Atlantis (138-140).

- If a direct quotation occurs **at the end of the sentence**, insert the parenthetical citation between the closing quotation mark and the concluding punctuation mark. For example:
 - He concludes his review of Anne Taylor's latest book with the declaration, "This writer is not merely good, she is wickedly good" (Updike 278).
- In an extended quotation of **more than four typed lines**, indent the entire quote one inch or ten spaces from the left margin and leave it double-spaced. The citation follows the last line of the quotation and is placed outside the ending punctuation. You do not need quotation marks. For example:

In a *Distant Mirror*, Barbara Tuchman alludes to the traditional personification of Death:

A skeleton with hourglass and scythe, in a white shroud or bare-boned, grinning at the irony of man's fate reflected in his image: that all men, from beggar to emperor, from harlot to queen, from ragged clerk to Pope, must come to this. No matter what their poverty or power in life, all is vanity, equalized in death. This image appears throughout literature, from gothic to romantic literature. (124)

- If a work is listed by its title only, use the title, shortened if possible. For example:
 - (*Guidelines* 244) instead of (*Guidelines for Meeting the Requirements of Henrico County Students* 244)
 - ("Pelican" 32) instead of ("Pelican Categories: A to Z" 32)
- When citing electronic sources, give the author's name or title of work ONLY. Look to your works cited page to determine which is needed. For example:
 - (Gordon, par. 25).

Additional Notes

- You should NEVER have an entire paragraph that includes one citation at the end. This implies that there is NO original thought in the paragraph.
- Ideally, each paragraph should integrate information from a variety of sources, including both primary and secondary sources.
- You should utilize lead-ins to differentiate between information from different sources and between researched information and your original ideas. For example:
 - According to Author's name, "... " (Citation).
 - Author's Name + verb (states/explains/argues/mentions/defends/etc.)
 - In the article "Article Title," Author's name + verb (states/explains/argues/mentions/defends/etc.)