

Parenthetical Documentation (In-text Citations) GH 2006

The research paper is yours when you create your thesis (main idea) statement, arrange the ideas and information, and state conclusions. However, you must give others credit for their ideas and information. Parenthetical documentation gives others proper credit for their work, and is included as part of the research paper.

Use parenthetical documentation for

- A direct quotation
- Ideas that are not your own, including paraphrases and summaries (even though you use your own words)
- Statistics, figures, tables
- Visual materials (maps, diagrams, pictures)

Parenthetical documentation is not needed for “common knowledge”

- The birth and death dates of a famous person’s life
- The chemical formula of a well-known substance
- Date or location of a famous battle
- Information the everyone already knows

If you are not sure whether or not to use parenthetical documentation, do it, and be on the safe side.

Parenthetical documentation includes information needed to identify a source. This information includes the first word from the works cited entry and the page number. The information is put in parentheses (), and the ending punctuation mark comes after the closing parenthesis.

Examples of Parenthetical Documentation

ONE AUTHOR

(Author's last name page)

Lee Iacocca headed the team that designed the original Ford Mustang that first appeared in 1964 (Wright 10).

TWO AUTHORS

(Author 1's last name "and" author 2's last name page)

The Comet was a popular car for racing (Black and Jones 23).

THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

(First author's last name "et al" page)

Chevrolet worked hard to stay in competition with the other major car manufacturers (Lewis et al. 301).

THE SAME AUTHOR OF TWO OR MORE WORKS USED IN THE PAPER

(Author's last name, shortened title page)

British models popular at the time included the sleek and expensive Rolls-Royce (Mason, British Classic 46). The Mercedes was also an expensive car by American standards (Mason, Classic Cars 87).

NO AUTHOR LISTED

(Shortened title page) or (Shortened "title" page)

Another popular car of the 1960s was the Chevrolet Camaro (American Classic 205). The Camaro was considered one of the all-time best sports car models ("Camaro" 36).

COBB VIRTUAL LIBRARY SOURCE

(Author's last name. or shortened "title." Cobb Virtual Library Resource)

There have been few cars to rival the Mustang in popularity (Davis. Electric Library). Almost one in three Americans owned a Mustang in 1966 ("Mustang." Grolier Online).

INTERNET

(Author's last name. or shortened "title." Internet).

The Ford Thunderbird was another well-known, reasonable affordable American car (Morris. Internet). During the 1960s, Ford manufactured several popular car models ("Famous Fords." Internet).

QUOTATION

(page) or (Author's last name page)

Try to put the author's name into your sentence and only put the page number in the parenthetical documentation. If the quotation is more than 3 lines long, indent it 10 spaces from the left margin and single-space the quotation, but do not use quotation marks.

Sobol describes Henry Ford's process in this manner:

For example, the company created an assembly line method in which conveyor belts brought automobile parts to workers. Each worker performed a particular task, such as adding or tightening a part. When the car reached the end of the assembly line, it was a completed vehicle (380).