APA Style  A brief guide for Parenthetical Citation (in-text citation)

This APA style guide has been designed for Marymount California University students who are writing for the Behavioral and Social Sciences. The proper use of a citation format such as APA can help you avoid plagiarism.

Parenthetical citation or in-text citation within the text of your paper lets your reader know when you’ve used information from another source. A variety of parenthetical citation examples by type are listed below to assist you with citing your sources.

Establishing credibility with your readers as they read your work is crucial. Giving credit to scholars you’ve reference in your work demonstrates that you’ve done your research by finding reliable information.

Remember: Each parenthetical citation included in your text must be cited at the end of your paper in the References page.

Inquire at the Help Desk with one of the librarians for APA style manuals available at Marymount California University Library.

-------------------------------

PARENTHETICAL CITATION EXAMPLES

1. Anonymous or unknown author: (Short Title, year, pp.); (“Short Article,” year)

Note: The short title or short article cuts down the length of the full title when it’s referenced in a paper. This is used because the titles of some research articles are often very long.

Parenthetical Citation:
It is a fact that MS-13 is an extremely violent and dangerous gang (“U.S to go,” 2012).

Reference:
II. **One author:** (Author’s Last Name, year, pp.); (Year, pp.)

*Parenthetical Citation:*
The author found that it is possible for patients to re-regulate brain wave activity (Cleary, 2011, p. 21).

Cleary (2011, p. 21) found that patients can re-regulate brain wave activity.

*Reference:*

_______________________________________________

III. **Two authors:** (Author 1 & Author 2, year, pp.)

*Parenthetical Citation:*
Many studies document the human capital cost of poor health in adulthood (Perreira & Ornelas, 2011, p 196).

Perreira & Ornelas (2011) found that numerous studies document capital cost of poor health in adulthood.

*Reference:*

_______________________________________________

IV. **Three-five authors:**

*Note:* In parenthetical citation, rather than repeating the massive string of authors again, your first cite will be (Author1, Author2, & Author3, year, pp.). The second time you cite the same resource it will look like this (Author1 et al., year, pp.).

*Parenthetical Citation:*
The study found breast cancer survivors used internet to get information about cancer and treatment options (Muhamad, Afshari, & Mohamed, 2011, p. 244).
Note: And the next time you cite something from the same article, in the same paper use this parenthetical citation...

Muhamad et al. (2011, p. 244) concluded that patients should use a credentialed web site that is comprehensive and regularly updated by objective and unbiased experts.

Reference:


---

V. **Six or more authors:** (Author 1 et al., year, pp.)

Note: In the reference page provide the full citation with all the names of the authors.

*Parenthetical Citation:*
Each child with diabetes requires a unique Diabetes Medical Management Plan (Silverstein et al., 2009).

Silverstein et al., (2009) found that each child with diabetes requires a unique Diabetes Medical Management Plan.

Reference:


---

VI. **Several reports by different authors:** (Author 1, year; Author 2, year; Author 3, year)

*Parenthetical Citation:*
Several reports (Conklin, 1998; Cowen 1995; Diehl 1994) provide statistics on vocational education.
Reference:


VII. Several sources by the same author: (Author, year 1, year 2, year 3)

Note: Use letters to contrast the multiple works an author has published in one year (e.g., 1974a, b). The years should be in chronological order.

Parenthetical Citation:
Several articles by Statsky (1973, 1974a, b) support Paralegals with educational information.

Reference:


VIII. Quotation: (Author, year, pp.)

Note: If there is no page number use the abbreviation para. (for paragraph) and the paragraph number, or the paragraph symbol and then the paragraph number (e.g., Author, year, para. 5 or Author, year, ¶ 5).

Parenthetical Citation:
The results show that “rats receiving long-term morphine treatment had significantly lower body weight gain” (Almela, 2012, ¶ 5).

As Almela (2012) found, “rats receiving long-term morphine treatment had significantly lower body weight gain” (para. 5).

Reference: