What is Parenthetical Citation?

**Parenthetical** citation is when a writer directly puts into the text a note from where he or she got the information. Parenthetical or **“in-text” citation** allows your reader to know from what source each idea/fact came.

This is how it looks in the text of your paper **when the author is known**:

“In 2007, 37 percent of American adults sought medical information from the internet regarding a health problem they were experiencing before consulting a doctor” (Smith 38).

In the example above, notice that the author’s name and the page number on which this fact was found are set off from the text within parenthesis. Note also that the **punctuation** of this parenthetical citation is also important. The reader would understand from this citation that on page 38 of Smith’s book, this fact is mentioned. Furthermore, since the words are contained within quotes, the above example illustrates that this is a **direct quote** from that page.

Here is an example of the same idea presented as an **indirect quote**:

Instead of going to a doctor right away, a recent study found that 37 percent of Americans are now turning to the internet for medical information (Smith 38).

Parenthetical citations are like **addresses**, everyone needs to know your address to know where you can find the information. Your address in your paper is you pointing to the specific source and page number where the original information can be found.

When do you use in-text documentation?

**\*if you use an original idea from a source (whether quoted or paraphrased)**

**\*if you summarize someone else's ideas**

**\*if you quote directly**

Put the author's last name and the page number within parentheses and usually at the end of a sentence.

**When author is mentioned in your writing:**

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

**No author:**

An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional (“Wordsworth is a Loser” 100).

Embedding quotations into your writing

To “**embed**” means to make the quote you use an integral part of the sentence **YOU** compose. A truly embedded quote is absolutely necessary to writing structure. Without it, the sentence **does not** make sense as a quote by itself. The best embedded quotes usually contain an aspect of analysis – how or why the quoted passage has **meaning and value** – to the overall **thesis/claim** of a work.

“Students really have no idea what opportunities exist in the big wide world. The possibilities are endless.”

Smith, Snuffy. How to Go to College. Cleveland: Scribner’s, 2005. P.32

Example of above quote embedded into my writing:

When looking ahead to the future, many students do not recognize the “wider variety of options available to them” after high school because “they really have no idea what opportunities exist in the big wide world” (Smith 32).

What is Parenthetical Citation?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** citation is when a writer directly puts into the text a note from where he or she got the information. Parenthetical or **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**allows your reader to know from what source each idea/fact came.

This is how it looks in the text of your paper **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

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Here is an example of the same idea presented as an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

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**Exercise 1: Citing in the Text**

DIRECTIONS: Refer to the text on your flippy for guidance with this exercise. Here is a quotation (with basic source information) that might be used in a paper.

“It is surely possible to become a ‘Simpson’-style couch potato, imprisoned by the endless wash of images, immobilized, (and) imbecilic.”

By John McConnell The Media as Babysitter McGraw Hill: New York 1989 p. 56

1. What is the correct way to cite this quote for parenthetical documentation? Place your citation in the parentheses ( ).

Here is a quotation (with basic source information) that might be used in a paper.

Author: Gordon Wood. Article: “Jefferson in His Time.” Publication: Wilson Quarterly, Spring 1993 p.36.

2. What is the correct way to cite this quote for parenthetical documentation?

Gordon Wood notes, “Jefferson, who was once one of the most revered American founders and early presidents, is now looked upon as a racist and as someone who was ruthless, self-righteous, and unconcerned for basic civil liberties” ( ).

Go Ask Alice by Anonymous. Pg. 143.

3. What is the correct way to cite this quote for parenthetical documentation?

In an anonymously written novel, Beatrice states the unfortunately true observation about being a teenager: “Sometimes I think we're all trying to be shadows of each other, trying to buy the same records and everything even if we don't like them. Kids are like robots, off an assembly line, and I don't want to be a robot!” ( ).

**Exercise 2: Embedding quotations into your writing**

DIRECTIONS: Embed a portion of the following quotation in a sentence using the appropriate citation. Look back at your flippy for an example of how this CAN be done. Your job is to interpret the quote and make it your own by adding in your own information, pretending that you’re writing a paper using that quote in it.

4. “Life, like any paper topic, neatly divides itself into three major categories—pre-college, college and post-college—each of which is determined primarily by the peculiar fears that dominate that stage. Of course, those unfortunates who never go to college are condemned to live out their impoverished lives experiencing on the pre-college and post-college stages.”

Crist, Seven G. “College and Fear.” The Harvard Lampoon Big Book of College Life. Garden City: Dolphin, 1978. P.62

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5. “Naturalists often run afoul of wildlife while in the field. I myself had my leg chewed off by a puma after

falling asleep at lunch one day. Thinking back, I wish I hadn’t had such a large lunch that day.”

Khlulus, I. M. “Fun with Wildlife.” Wilderness Ranger June 2004: pg.21.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. “I suggest that you study hard in college, but get a job too. Jobs teach much more than school ever does.”

Workman, Tom. Personal interview. 25 Feb. 2007. Pg. 87

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7. **Embed elements of the same quote (#5) using the author’s name to introduce the quote.**

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8. “Many students leave school with ‘jeopardy’ knowledge, but no real skills. What employers want are potential employees who have the skills to learn, not just the learning itself. The ability to learn and adapt to new environments is the key to success.”

“What Employers Want.” The New Horizon July 2006: 55-56.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**EXERCISE 3: Paraphrasing**

DIRECTIONS: For the following questions, rather than quote, paraphrase the most important ideas using your own words and cite appropriately.

9. Paraphrase from the quote below and use an appropriate citation in a sentence of your own construction. (Paraphrase means to put the ideas of another person into your own words.) For this example, only the first page is given, as they article appears on non-contiguous pages—how should it be cited?)

“My most successful piece sold for $10,000. I showed it to this guy I was dating, and he was blown away that it had sold for so much because, to him, it looked like a scene of mud. I began showing in galleries while still in school.”

Benthin, Stefanie. “Successful Artists: You Can Be One Too.” Abstract Art Magazine Oct. 1991: pg.21.

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10. Paraphrase this quote and include the appropriate citation:

“The highest rated colleges this year are those specializing in technical fields. If you have skills in any area of technology, you can write your own ticket and work anywhere in the world.”

Albers, Joe. Presentation. “Multiple Intelligences and Career Paths.” Durango, 25 Feb. 2000. Pg. 5

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11. Paraphrase a PORTION of the following quotation and include the appropriate citation:

“Whatever you do for work in life, the most important thing to remember is not how much money you make or how big a title you have, it is whether you look forward to getting up in the morning and doing it again. Money can buy things; things can be replaced. Titles can be bought, which makes them simply things.”

Unofficial Woody Guthrie Homepage. 14 June 2006. Pg. 1.

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