

# PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION

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The “Works Cited” page indicates what sources you have used. Parenthetical documentation in the body of your paper indicates what specific information you have borrowed from someone else’s work. **This information includes quotations, paraphrases, summaries, facts and ideas you have obtained from your research.** The list of works cited at the end of your research paper is an important and essential part of acknowledging the sources you used to write your paper, create your PowerPoint, etc.

“You must indicate to your readers not only what works you used in writing your paper, but also exactly what you derived from each source and exactly where in the work you found the material.” **Usually the author’s last name and a page reference are enough to identify the source and the specific location from which you borrowed material (Gibaldi 238).**

## **Guidelines for parenthetical documentation:**

The above parenthetical reference “(Gibaldi 238)” indicates that the quotation came from page 238 of a print source by Gibaldi. Publication information for the source can be found in the alphabetically arranged “Works Cited” page as follows:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. NY: Modern Language Association, 2003.

**Documenting an entire work:** it is preferable to include the author’s name in the text.

Ex. Terry Otten’s *The Crime of Innocence in the Fiction of Toni Morrison* traces the motif of the biblical fall.

**Documenting a quotation:**

Ex. “The separation from the personal mother is a particularly intense process for a daughter because she has to separate from the one who is the same as herself” (Murdock 17). Parenthetical documentation is after the quotation mark and before the period.

**Documenting a paraphrase:**

Ex. In fairy tales a woman who holds the princess captive or who abandons her often needs to be killed (18). The second paraphrase is also from Murdock’s book. It is not necessary to repeat the author’s name if no other documentation interrupts the two.

**Documenting more than one work by the same author:** include within the parentheses an abbreviated form of the appropriate title.

Ex. Morrison stresses her belief in the power of names...another of her strong female characters, says, “I’d know her ribbon color anywhere, but I don’t know her name” (Morrison, *The Song*... 42).

**Documenting the title in your sentence:** this makes it unnecessary to add an abbreviated title in the citation.

Ex. In *The Song of Solomon*, Morrison stresses her belief in the power of names ...another of her strong female characters, says “I’d know her ribbon color anywhere, but I don’t know her name” (Morrison 42).

**Documenting a quotation from Shakespeare:**

Ex. (4.3.65-68). That is, Act 4, Scene 3, lines 65-68.

**Documenting a source with no author:**

Ex. Provide a short version of the title: (“Cloning” 2).

Corporate authors should be cited as if they are a “real” person.

Ex. Public Agenda Foundation. *The Health Care Crisis*. NY: McGraw, 1992.

**Documenting web pages:**

Document the author or title. (Sometimes you have to look carefully to locate the author or title of a Web page, if there is an author at all.) Web pages will be listed by the name of the page if there is no author.

Ex. “Snowy Owl.” Hinterland Who’s Who. 15 May 2002. Canadian Wildlife Service. 08 Aug. 2002 <[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hww-fap/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hww-fap/index_e.cfm)>

The above will be cited in the body of your paper as (“Snowy Owl”). The reader can go to your “Works Cited” and see the above citation and get all the web information.

If there are two or more sources that look the same in a parenthetical citation or have the same titles, pick the next word that distinguishes the web pages.

Ex. (“Snowy Owl,” Hinterland); (“Snowy Owl,” Bird); (“Snowy Owl,” Nature).

Use Pilgrim High School’s MLA format sheet when creating your source cards and “Works Cited” pages. Adhere to all punctuation and spacing rules.

Jb 9/08

This handout was adapted from:

Gale Cengage Learning [http://www.galegroup.com/free\\_resources/term\\_paper/parenthetical.htm](http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/term_paper/parenthetical.htm)

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. NY: Modern Language Assoc., 2003

North Yarmouth Academy <http://www.nya.org/academics/stylesheetparen.htm>

Purdue On-Line Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>