

Parenthetical Reference, MLA Style (the basics)

- Give credit to your source in the body of your paper—right after you use someone’s words or ideas. This includes direct quotes AND paraphrased ideas.
- Place your parenthetical reference after the sentence that contains the borrowed quote/idea.
- If you make more than one reference to the same source and same page in the same paragraph, and have no other sources cited in between, just use one citation at the end of the last quote/idea.
- Usually, you will include the author’s last name and page number(s) as in Example 1. If you use the author’s name in your sentence, then only include page number in parentheses as in Example 2.
- If there is no author, give a shortened version (1-2 words) of the title as in Examples 3 and 4.
- Internet and database sources often have no page numbers. For these, it is preferable to use author’s name/article name within your sentence rather than in parentheses after the sentence as in Example 4. However, if it is awkward to include the source in your sentence, use parentheses at the end of the sentence. See Example 4.

Example 1-- Author and page number in parentheses:

The expressions “high-brow” and “low-brow” come from the Elizabethan practice of women wearing a high hairline on their foreheads. They would use vinegar-soaked bandages and cat dung to attain this fashion statement (Graydon 53).

Example 2--Author cited in text, page number in parentheses:

According to Graydon, the expressions “high-brow” and “low-brow” come from the Elizabethan practice of women wearing a high hairline on their foreheads. They would use vinegar-soaked bandages and cat dung to attain this fashion statement (53).

Example 3—Source has no author:

Sixty-one percent of teenage girls said that family members make comments to them about their looks (“Am” 94).

Example 4--Internet or Database (no page numbers/no author):

Witmer says that teens’ feelings about themselves tend to go up and down with their weight.

OR

There is usually a warning on the first page of a pro-anorexia website telling readers to enter at their own risk (“Ana Sanctuary”).

*****These examples correspond to the works cited page in the PHS Citation Manual. It is also included on the next page.***

Works Cited

“Am I Fat?” *Seventeen*. March 2005: 94-95. Print.

“The Ana Sanctuary: Women’s Pro-Anorexia Narratives in Cyberspace.” *Contemporary Women’s Issues Database*. 1 Apr. 2003. *eLibrary*. Web. 17 Dec. 2010.

“Beauty and Body Image in the Media.” *Media Awareness Network*. Media Awareness Network, 2009. Web. 25 Aug. 2009.

Graydon, Shari. *In Your Face: The Culture of Beauty and You*. Toronto: Annick, 2004. Print.

Witmer, Denise. “How Does the Media Effect Body Image in Teens?” *About.com*. About.com, n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2007.