

Parenthetical Notation (Internal Citations)

Parenthetical notation is the tool that allows you to say where you got the information in your research paper. There is a specific format that you will use according to the MLA handbook. If you do not use parenthetical notation, you are asserting that the information in your research paper is yours. It's not. You had to look it up. Give the author credit, or it is plagiarism.

Parenthetical notation ALWAYS:

- Is surrounded by parenthesis.
- Has the period AFTER the parenthesis.

1. If you know the author of the information, use the LAST name only—put the name in parentheses.

(Smith).

“The American average annual salary for a new teacher is 38,000 dollars” (Smith).

2. If you do not know the author's name, use the title of the article, in quotations—put this title in parentheses.

(“Teaching”).

“The American average annual salary for a new teacher is 38,000 dollars” (“Teaching”).