By citing your sources “in-text” using parentheses, you are giving credit to the authors whose works you have consulted, as well as directing your reader to a specific location in that work. Each work you cite in parentheses should also appear on your References list at the end of your paper. The following examples apply to both periodical articles and books.

Use the author’s last name and (publication year)—usually before the quote, then follow the quote with the page number in parentheses using “p.” for a single page or “pp.” for more than one page:

Critser (2003) noted that many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5).

If you do not use the author’s name in your sentence, be sure to place it in parentheses after the quote:

Health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (Critser, 2003, p.5).

Citing a work by two authors, always use both authors’ names:

Obese children often engage in limited physical activity (Southern & Gordon, 2003, pp. 104-106).

When citing a work by three to five authors, identify all authors the first time you mention the work, then use the first author’s name followed by “et al.” for each additional use:

Wasserstein, Zappulla, Rosen, Gerstman, and Rock (1994) found that… [first citation in text]

Wasserstein et al. (1994) found that… [subsequent citations of same work]

Citing a work by six or more authors, only identify the first author followed by et al. and the publication year:

Sotomayor et al. (2013)

If the author is unknown, use the work’s title. Use quotation marks around the title of articles and italicize books:

Double agents are still widely in use (Spies, 2008, p. 12).

Cite electronic sources the same way you would any other source, giving the author and year when available. However, if you are using a website without page numbers, cite the appropriate heading and paragraph so the reader can find the information you are referring to:

Hoppin and Taveras (2004) pointed out that several other medications were classified by the DEA as having the “potential for abuse” (Weight-Loss Drugs section, para. 6).
When and how to quote

In order to avoid plagiarism, parenthetical references should be used both when you are directly quoting an author and when you are paraphrasing an author’s idea without using quotations.

Direct quote:

“He felt himself facing something ungraspable. The eyes that looked so intently at him were without humor”

(Golding, 1954, p.34).

Partial quote, use an ellipsis (…) to end the quotation:

“There was the brilliant world of hunting, tactics, fierce exhilaration, skill; and there was the world of longing…”

(Golding, 1954, p.64).

Direct quote ending in a question or exclamation point:

“You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it out!” (Golding, 1954, p.64).

If you use a quotation that is longer than 40 words, set it off from the text by indenting it half an inch or five spaces from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks:

King (2011) stated that:

Architecture has always been used by ambitious governments as a way of demonstrating their power and their success, and nowhere more so than in Latin America in the twentieth century. The English-speaking world has tended to forget that in the middle decades of the century Latin America was held in high regard, especially in the United States, for the quantity, quality, and diversity of its new architecture (p. 222).

Paraphrasing—putting someone else’s ideas into your own words. You still need a citation, but do not use quotation marks:

In the mid-twentieth century, Latin American governments used architecture to display their success, and it was greatly admired by the English-speaking world (King, 2011, p. 222).