

Overview of In-text Citations

English 11

What's it called?

In-text citation, parenthetical reference, in-text reference

What's it for?

You must give credit for every piece of information in your paper that came from research, **even if you wrote it in your own words**. The in-text citation directs your reader to your References list, where the full bibliographic information can be found.

What's in it?

Three elements: author last name, year of publication, page OR paragraph number

Variations?

Read further in your packets and on NoodleTools for help with the following:

- Where it goes
- How to include some of the citation info in your sentence
- More than one author
- No author
- Multiple authors with the same last name
- Sources by the same author in the same year
- No date
- When to include page OR paragraph number
- Citing a source more than once in a paragraph

How do I punctuate it?

Commas between the elements, period **AFTER** the citation. Your citation is considered part of the sentence.

What does it look like?

For more samples, consult the examples in your packets and on NoodleTools. Look at the sample term paper on the Term Paper Resources web page.

On the back are a few samples. Can you see a pattern in which information from the Reference is used in the in-text citation?

Highlight or underline the information in the Reference that appears in the in-text citation.
Can you see a pattern?

References list:

Lesinski, J. M. (2000). *Bill Gates*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications.

In text citation:

(Lesinski, 2000, p. 129)

References list:

American Cancer Society. (2015, February 26). Types of breast cancer. Retrieved
February 24, 2015, from
[http://www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer/detailedguide/breast-cancer-
breast-cancer-types](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer/detailedguide/breast-cancer-breast-cancer-types)

In text citation:

(American Cancer Society, 2015, para. 5)

References list:

Ellen DeGeneres. (n.d.). Retrieved February 21, 2015, from
<http://www.ellentv.com/page/2009/08/17/about-ellen-degeneres/>

In text citation:

(Ellen Degeneres, n.d.)

References list:

Lessons offered but not (necessarily) learned. (2012). *Vital Speeches of the Day*,
78(12), 397.

In text citation:

("Lessons offered but," 2012)