

APA Parenthetical Documentation for Internet Sources

1. **Is parenthetically citing online sources different from parenthetically citing print sources?**
 - No, because the same philosophy applies for all APA parenthetical citations. The parenthetical citation should allow a reader to **easily** find the source in the reference list.
2. **Where should the parenthetical citation go in the sentence?**
 - For anything other than a block quote, the parenthetical citation should follow the reference. For example:
 - Ebner (2002) stated that some students believe that teachers are evil.
 - “Some students believe that teachers make this decision because they are evil” (Ebner, 2002, ¶ 1).
 - *Because the author’s name is mentioned in the first example, only the date is necessary for the parenthetical citation.*
 - *The second citation does not mention the author, who must now become part of the parenthetical citation. Notice that only the last name is given here.*
 - *Also, because a specific quotation is used, the location of that quotation in the text should be cited. Since many online sources lack page numbers, paragraph (abbreviated as para. or ¶ in your parenthetical documentation) numbers are often used. If the online source does not have numbered paragraphs, but uses sections, it is acceptable to cite the section, followed by the paragraph’s number within that section. For example:*
 - “You need to put ideas in to get ideas out” (Rapp Young, 2001, Feed Your Brain section, ¶ 1).
 - *The above quotation came from the first paragraph of the Feed Your Brain section, which is about halfway through the article.*
 - *If no section, paragraph or page numbers are given, then it is acceptable to **not** label the specific place in the text from which the reference originates.*
3. **What about long quotations?**
 - Only large block quotations (longer than forty words) require end punctuation (a period, question mark, etc.) **before** the parenthetical citation.
 - Ebner (2002) stated the following:

I stand by the front desk in the writing center, awaiting my next consultation. It has been a busy day, lots of papers are due soon, and many students are rushing in last minute. Although countless students come to us with a yearning desire to enhance their writing skills—others merely come in search of our exclusive white ROCs, otherwise known as a record of consultation. (¶ 1)

 - *Only the paragraph number is given since the author and date were referenced at the beginning of the block quotation.*
 - *Notice that block quotations are also indented.*

*American Psychology Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.