

Using Parenthetical Documentation for Evidence in your Paper  
(In- Text Citations)

**In parentheses at the end of the sentence, write the author's last name and the page number.**

*The Grapes of Wrath* is an historical novel, “a summation of national experience at a given time” (Levant 93). Therefore, to understand the novel, one must understand the historical events on which it was based.

**When citing a long, multi-line quote, place the citation at the end of the quote. Yes, this hanging quote should also be double-spaced.**

The immigrants from Oklahoma swelled the numbers of California's migrant labor force and drove wages down (Stein 213-23). Wages were so low, and jobs were so few, that thousands of migrants were driven to desperate poverty. The extent of the desperation is made clear in a report written in 1939, the year that *The Grapes of Wrath* was published:

The state Relief Administration estimates that most agricultural workers only have employment for six months in the year or less; and that the average yearly earnings per family... [were] \$289 in 1935. In the same study the S.R.A estimated that each family... should have had at least \$780 to eke out an existence. In 1932 there were 181 agricultural workers for every hundred jobs offered; in ... 1934, 142. (McWilliams 48)

**If you have included the author's name in the text of your writing, then simply place the page number in parentheses at the end of the reference.**

According to historian Walter Stein, “By 1937, the [Oklahoma migrants] had become a local embarrassment, by 1938 a state concern, and by 1939, with the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath* a national scandal” (216).

**If it's a website with no page number, you could mention the website or article title in text for clarity and not cite it in parentheses.**

According to historian Walter Stein of *CNN.com*, “By 1937, the [Oklahoma migrants] had become a local embarrassment, by 1938 a state concern, and by 1939, with the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath* a national scandal.”

**If your source quotes another source, make sure your in-text citation indicates which source on your Works Cited page is the proper reference with the abbreviation “qtd. in” clearly stated.**

According to historian Walter Stein, “By 1937, the [Oklahoma migrants] had become a local embarrassment, by 1938 a state concern, and by 1939, with the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath*, a national scandal” (qtd. in Ruby 216).

**If you are referring to an author that has written more than one text that you cite, include the first word or two of the title to specify which text you mean.**

Steinbeck actually followed the trail of the Oklahoma migrants and visited their camping places (French, “What did” 51-52)

**When quoting a text without an author, write the first word or two of the title, *in the same format as it appears on the Works Cited page.***

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored... (*Familiar Quotations* 566).

### Using Quotations

- 1- The quotation must be copied exactly as the quoted author has written it. Source acknowledgement is given in the parenthetical citation.
- 2- Any alteration of the quote must be noted.
  - a- **Additions:** Sometimes it is necessary to add words for clarity to a quotation. Additional words are placed in brackets. [ ]. Also, changed capitalization or words to make it flow with your text needs to be in brackets as well.
  - b- **Omissions:** As long as the quoted author's meaning is not distorted by the omission of the words, it is permissible to do so. This is indicated by the use of three spaced dots called ellipsis marks. If the omission follows a mark of punctuation, the punctuation mark is used, followed by three spaced dots.
  - c- **Errors:** If there is an error in the quoted material, it is important to insert [sic], meaning "thus" or "so" after the mistake or misspelling.
- 3- Quotations always begin and end with the punctuation marks and capital or small letters appropriate to the grammatical requirements of the writer's sentence.
- 4- When a quotation functions as a part of the researcher's sentence, no ellipsis marks are used at the beginning or the ending of the quotation even if there are omissions from the beginning or the ending of the quoted material.
- 5- When quoting an author who is quoting someone else, use double quotation marks for the author you are quoting and single quotation marks for the inner quotation. (i.e. " '....' ")

#### Length of Quotations:

- a- Often one or two lines will provide all you need.
- b- Use the quotation as the center of your analysis, not at the end of a paragraph.
- c- Use longer quotes to give your readers a taste of the style or to show a conflict/dichotomy
- d- Long quotes must be justified by extensive discussion of it, not just in the paragraph, but throughout the paper. Otherwise, find a way to winnow it down.
- e- Refer back to specifics in the long quote as you analyze.

- f- Make sure that you introduce the quotations well so that relevant context has made the connection very clear.
  - Reader must know exactly who is speaking the lines you are quoting.
  - If you quote from a secondary source, identify the author and work when you introduce the quote. It's better than just having it in the in-text citation, at least initially.
- g- Once you have quoted from that source, your subsequent quotations can be identified by the author's last name only and by the page number in parentheses following the quotation.
- h- Make sure the quote follows the grammatical structure of the sentence in which it appears.

**Example:**

Original passage from *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.

“My uncle Nacho is pulling and pulling my arm and it doesn't matter how new the dress Mama bought is because my feet are ugly until my uncle who is a liar says, ‘You are the prettiest girl here, will you dance,’ but I believe him, and yes, we are dancing, my uncle Nacho and me, only I don't want to at first. My feet swell big and heavy like plungers but I drag them across the linoleum floor straight center where uncle wants to show off the new dance we learned.”

**Awkward:** Esperanza describes her feet as awkward. “My feet swell big and heavy like plungers,” The phrase “but I drag them across the linoleum floor” also shows her reluctance to dance and how self-conscious she is.

**Better:** Esperanza's reluctance to dance with her uncle is evident as she self-consciously describes her awkward feet, which “swell big and heavy like plungers” drag[s] them across the linoleum floor.”