

How to Cite a Resource

Directions for Citing Quotations in a Paper Using Only One Source

If you are writing a paper about one book—a book report, say—and you *quote* something from that book, you close the quotation with a quotation mark, cite the page or pages *only* within parentheses, and add any comma or period *after* the final parenthesis. Or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

There is an exception if the quotation ends in an exclamation or a question mark. Then you leave the exclamation or question mark in before the quotation mark and still put the comma or period *after* the final parenthesis. Or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

What the Directions Mean

Opening quotation mark. Copy the quotation EXACTLY, word for word, spelling everything correctly, and getting all the punctuation right. Closing quotation mark. Space. Parenthesis. Page number. Parenthesis. Space. Comma or period. Space.

Sample

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” (1), Dickens said at the beginning of his novel about the time of the French Revolution.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” (1). Dickens’s classic line opens his novel about the time of the French Revolution.

“Is it not our choices that make us who we are?” (278).

“I’ve made my choice! Now to see if I live or die!” (281), and with that, the author sweeps into the climactic scene.

Directions for Citing Quotations in a Paper Using Multiple Sources

If you are writing a paper multiple sources, and you *quote* something from a source, you close the quotation with a quotation mark, cite the page or pages *and first part of the list of works entry* within parentheses, and add any comma or period *after* the final parenthesis. Or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

There is an exception if the quotation ends in an exclamation or a question mark. Then you leave the exclamation or question mark in before the quotation mark and still put the comma or period *after* the final parenthesis. Or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

What the Directions Mean

Reference. Space. Parenthesis. Author's last name. Page number. Parenthesis. Space. Comma or period. Space.

Sample

It turned out that dolphin populations did go back up after tuna fishing regulations changed (Adams 11), and the tuna industry survived in spite of having to alter their fishing techniques.

Fishermen asked the public to support the fishing industry (Terrence 8a).

Activists claim that dolphins have rights (Orson 3b).

Directions for Citing References in a Paper Using Multiple Sources

If you are writing a paper multiple sources and you *refer to an idea* from a source without actually quoting from it, cite the page or pages *and first part of the list of works entry* within parentheses. Then add any comma or period *after* the final parenthesis, or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

There is an exception if the quotation ends in an exclamation or a question mark. Then you leave the exclamation or question mark in before the quotation mark and still put the comma or period *after* the final parenthesis. Or continue the sentence without any additional punctuation.

What the Directions Mean

Opening quotation mark. Copy the quotation EXACTLY, word for word, spelling everything correctly, and getting all the punctuation right. Closing quotation mark. Space. Parenthesis. Author's last name. Page number. Parenthesis. Space. Comma or period. Space.

Sample

“Dolphin populations doubled within five years after tuna fishing regulations changed” (Adams 11), and the tuna industry survived in spite of having to alter their fishing techniques.

“Dolphin populations doubled within five years after tuna fishing regulations changed” (Adams 11).

“Isn’t it worthwhile to support the fishing industry?” (Terrence 8a), one fisherman asked.

“Dolphins have rights too!” (Orson 3b) claimed enthusiastic activists.