

In-text Citations: The Basics

If you know the author, then you have 2 choices:

Use the author's name in the sentence and then include the page number in parenthesis at the end. Or you can put the author's last name and page number in parenthesis at the end of the information you are citing. For example:

Humes describes writing as a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to detail (36).

OR

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to detail (Humes 36).

For a work with two to three authors, do the same as above, but list all of the authors:

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to detail (Humes, Gierman, and Cargen 36).

If there are more than 3 authors, provide the first author's last name and then use et al. (You can use all authors' names if you choose). For example:

Writing is a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to detail (Humes et al. 36).

OR

Humes et al. describe writing as a challenging process requiring a great deal of attention to detail (36).

If you do not know the author's name, then use a shortened title of the work in quotation marks if it is a shorter work or italicized if it is a longer work and then the page number. For example:

There are so many examples of the challenges faced by today's teens that have access to so much technology. One problem is information overload ("21st Century Teens" 5).

For other variations, please check the Purdue Owl website citing page:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>