How to correctly cite your sources in a research paper:  
A guide to parenthetical citations and writing a Works Cited page.

If you don’t give credit to a source, you are plagiarizing.

Your citation / quotation:

- Is suppose to strengthen your paper. You are picking a quotation that supports your topic.
- If you are stating that the Great Depression was an important historical event in the 1930s, then you should search for a quote that states this.
- If you are saying that the Hank Aaron was the most influential athlete of his time, find a quote that says this.
- This is a parenthetical citation – Using another person’s thoughts/words to support your idea.

Parenthetical citations from Ask Me No Questions and To Kill a Mockingbird:

- “If you know how to breathe, you can get through anything” (Budhos 116).
- “Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit ‘em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird” (Lee 119).

Parenthetical citation = Quotation from a source

- Always give credit for any idea, information, or actual words that you get from another source.
- A parenthetical citation is citing a quotation from a book, website, encyclopedia, etc, and using it in your paper.

- After you excerpt a quotation, you write the author’s name and page # in parenthesis.
- Or you can be fancy and say: According to Atticus in Harper Lee’s novel, “it is a sin to kill a mockingbird” (119).
- There will be cases when there are NO AUTHORS and/or NO PAGE NUMBERS such as a website citation. We will discuss this later.

- In a parenthetical citation, always include the author and page number at the end of a sentence in which you use that source. The period goes after the parentheses.
- EXAMPLE: Dallas Winston would do anything for his friend Johnny. In chapter 8 he states, “we gotta get even with the Socs. For Johnny” (Hinton 125).