Parenthetical Information in an Essay

Provide only the page number if the author has been identified in the body of the work/paragraph previous to the quote.

In *Writing Logically, Thinking Critically*, authors Sheila Cooper and Rosemary Patton offer obvious advice: “The informality encouraged by e-mail and text messaging requires us to carefully consider our audience” (12).

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*You are not expected to correct writing misdemeanors, like the above split infinitive.*

If there are several authors for a book, you may use all their last names or use the first one and then the reference et al. just like you would in the works cited entry.

“The first step to any process begins even before the pen hits the page” (Stein, Forbyn, and Dotty 7).

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If you include works by authors with the same last name, add the first initial.

“Never under-estimate the power of silence” (A. Paulson 89). But be sure also to consider that the “whisper may occasionally speak more loudly than a scream” (P. Paulson 132).

If there is no author, use the title of the work in the author’s place, abbreviated if possible.

The *Daily Breese* article “Cheap Tricks Cost a Pretty Penny” (“CT”) offers a clever take on revenge. When prankster Patrick Dennison offered a stranger assistance, he simply intended to impress and amuse his friends. The victim, however, “hit the jackpot” when a witness to this event turned out to be a “highly ambitious, top-notch” attorney, a “self-proclaimed ambulance chaser” (“CT” B3).