APA In-Text Citation Guide

APA In-text Citations

Guidelines from the APA Handbook (7th edition):
https://apastyle.apa.org/

What are in-text citations for APA?

- In your text, you should include a parenthetical citation each time you directly quote or paraphrase from another source. This is known as an *in-text citation.*

- Each of the in-text citations in your paper should have a corresponding full reference in your References list.

- An in-text citation gives your reader enough information to locate the full reference in your References page at the end of the essay.

- The most common way to do an in-text citation is to include the source´s information in parentheses at the end of the sentence, before the period.

APA uses the **author-date** method—use the author´s last name, a comma, and the publication date for in-text citations.

Direct quotes, unlike paraphrases or summaries, also require page numbers, which are preceded by "p." for a single page and "pp." for a page range. See examples below.

Citing a Work with One Author (Paraphrasing or Summarizing)

If the author's name is NOT included *in the* sentence, use author´s last name and the year in the parenthetical citation.

> **Example:** Dickens despised the way in which dismissing truth and bending the rules allowed citizens in power to commit heinous offenses with impunity (Van Ghent, 1950).

> *Note that the author whose work is being paraphrased is not mentioned in the sentence. This is why we need to include the author´s last name and the year in the parenthetical citation. Also note that the period comes after the in-text citation.

If the author's name is already included in the sentence, use only the year in the parentheses right after referencing the author. Take a look at this example:

> **Example:** Mark Twain (2016) suggested that it is important for all readers to read his entire book in one sitting in order to get the full experience of his writing.

> *Note that the author´s name is mentioned in the text, so the parenthetical citation only includes the publication date of the source.

Citing a Work with One Author (Direct Quoting)

If directly quoting word for word from another author, use the author's name, the year, and the page number from where the quote was taken. Take a look at this example:

Example: She stated, "Even though students think APA is confusing, it's really not that hard once you learn a few basics" (Smith, 1999, p. 199).

If there are no page numbers available (such as in an electronic source), use the paragraph numbers.

Example: She stated, "Even though students think APA is confusing, it's really not that hard once you learn a few basics" (Smith, 1999, paras. 2-3).

Citing a Work by Multiple Authors (Paraphrasing or Summarizing)

For a source with two authors, list the authors' last names and the year in the text or in the parenthetical citation:

Examples: King and Twain (2020) argue that literature and science fiction make the best live action plays.

The authors claim that literature and science fiction are beautiful, mesmerizing, and entertaining (King & Twain, 2020).

*Note that in the parenthetical documentation, an ampersand (&) is used between the author's names.

For a source with three or more authors, list only the first author's last name, followed by "et al."

Example: The researchers claimed, "A two percent increase in dosage resulted in a 15% decrease in reported side effects" (King et al., 2013, p. 15).

Citing Sources with No Author

Some websites and other materials may not have an author. When this happens, cite the source by its title or use the first couple of words of the title if it is lengthy.

Example: Learning how to format a research paper takes time, but anyone can learn ("Using Citations," 2001).

*Note: Titles of books and reports are italicized; titles of articles, chapters, and web pages are in quotation marks in the in-text citations.

Multiple Citations in One Instance

To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

Example: . . . as has been discussed in previous research (Dunn, 2013; Dietz, 2012).

For sample papers, please visit: https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/paper-format/sample-papers