

APA In-Text Citation Guide

APA In-text Citations

Guidelines from the APA Handbook (7th edition):

<https://apastyle.apa.org/>

Why a citation guide for APA?

- In your text, you should include a parenthetical citation each time you directly quote or paraphrase from another source.
- Each of the in-text citations in your paper should have a corresponding full citation in your References list.
- A parenthetical citation gives your reader enough information to locate the full citation in your References page at the end of the essay.
- The most common way to do a parenthetical 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 year from which the information came.

Citing a Work with One Author (Paraphrasing or Summarizing)

If *not* including the author's name *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 including the author's name 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 year of the quotation. The citation comes after the end quote and the period after the parenthetical citation.

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. 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, 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 Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.

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.

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.

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.

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>