

APA: In-Text Citations



When using APA style to write a research paper or other academic text, it is important to include both in-text and reference citations. For every in-text citation, there should be a corresponding reference entry, and vice versa. APA style uses an author-date system of in-text citations. This means that when source material is used, the author's last name and year of publication must be provided. For example: (Burroughs, 2009).

Signal Phrasing: When citing a source, a signal phrase may be used to introduce the material. A signal phrase is a word, phrase, or sentence that indicates to the reader that you will be including researched material. For example:

According to Burroughs (2009), ...
Burroughs (2009) stated that...

Paraphrasing and Quoting: Citations in APA style consist of paraphrasing and direct quoting.

A paraphrase is a restatement of the source information in the writer's own words.

Example paraphrase: Voice's influence on writing is debated among writing scholars (Elbow, 2007).

A direct quotation is a word-for-word reprinting of the source information.

Example direct quote: "Writing scholars often disagree about how voice influences writing" (Elbow, 2007, p. 168).

Citing References in Text

Author named in sentence or parentheses: When the author is named in the sentence (with a signal phrase), the year of publication immediately follows the name. If the author is *not* named in the sentence, you must put the author's last name and year of publication in parentheses at the end of the sentence. You must keep author and date together, whether in a signal phrase or at the end of a sentence.

Reference entry:

Wegener, J. W. (1994). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology, 24*, 225-229.

Corresponding in-text citation (single author named in sentence):

- Research by Wegener (1994) supports the claim . . .

Alternate corresponding in-text citation (single author named in parentheses):

- Sickle-cell anemia is often fatal, and its health effects vary (Wegener, 1994).

When to include page number(s) in the parenthetical citation: When using a direct quotation in text, APA style requires that page numbers be placed within the in-text citation. Page numbers may also be used when referring to specific parts of a source. The APA manual also states "that *page*, but not *chapter*, is abbreviated in such text citations" (APA, 2010, p. 179).

- *Citation with page number:* (Anderson, 2005, p. 10).
- *Or with multiple page numbers:* (Emery, 2006, pp. 23-24).

Long Quotations: Direct quotes including more than 40 words should be formatted as a block quotation. The quotation is double-spaced and begins on a new line. The entire block must be indented .5" from the left margin. The parenthetical citation is placed at the end of the block outside of the final punctuation. For example:

Composition scholars' beliefs have shifted:

Baird and the others developed a rich and sophisticated attitude toward voice. On the one hand, participants spent a great deal of time scolding sincerity and skewering students and colleagues who were naive or foolhardy enough to defend it. They insisted that a text gives no window at all on the actual self of the writer. (Elbow, 2007, p. 170)

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One Work by Multiple Authors:

When citing a source with multiple authors, the rules are different depending on the number of authors. According to APA (2010), “if a source has two authors, cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs; in subsequent citations, include only the surname of the first author followed by *et al.* (not italicized and with a period after *al*) and the year if it is the first citation of the reference within a paragraph [...] When a work has six or more authors, cite only the surname of the first author followed by *et al.* (not italicized and with a period after *al*) and the year for the first and subsequent citations” (APA, 2010, p. 175).

APA Citation Styles

Type of Citation	First citation in text	Subsequent citations in text	Parenthetical format, first citation in text	Parenthetical format, subsequent citations in text
One work by one author	Grimm (1999)	Grimm (1999)	(Grimm, 1999)	(Grimm, 1999)
One work by two authors	Calfee and Valencia (1991)	Calfee and Valencia (1991)	(Calfee & Valencia, 1991)	(Calfee & Valencia, 1991)
One work by three authors	Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (1999)	Bradley et al. (1999)	(Bradley, Ramirez, & Soo, 1999)	(Bradley et al., 1999)
One work by four authors	Chamberlin, Novotney, Packard, and Price (2008)	Chamberlin et al. (2008)	(Chamberlin, Novotney, Packard, & Price, 2008)	(Chamberlin et al., 2008)
One work by five authors	Herculano-Houzel, Collins, Wong, Kaas, and Lent (2008)	Herculano-Houzel et al. (2008)	(Herculano-Houzel, Collins, Wong, Kaas, & Lent, 2008)	(Herculano-Houzel et al., 2008)
One work by six or more authors	Angeli et al. (2010)	Angeli et al. (2010)	(Angeli et al., 2010)	(Angeli et al., 2010)

Note. Adapted from (APA, 2010, p. 177)

Citing Multiple Works in the Same Parentheses:

“Order the citations of two or more works within the same parentheses alphabetically in the same order in which they appear in the reference list (including citations that would otherwise shorten to *et al.*)” (APA, 2010, p. 177).

Example:

Several studies (Miller, 1999; Shafranske & Mahoney, 1998) argue ...

Citing a Work with No Author:

When a work has no author(s) identified, cite in text the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and the year. Use quotation marks around the title of an article, chapter, or web page and italicizes the title of a periodical, a book, a brochure, or a report (APA, 2010, p. 176).

Example 1:

In the book *College Bound Seniors* (2008), the topic of...

Example 2:

The report claims... (“Study Finds,” 2007).

The information for this handout was compiled from the following sources:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). APA style. Retrieved from <http://www.apastyle.org/>

Elbow, P. (2007). Reconsiderations: Voice in writing again: Embracing contraries. *College English*, 70(2), 168-188.

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