

7th Edition APA In-Text Citations

Citing the work and ideas of others when writing a research paper is a necessary practice that you'll include in two major places in your essay: the references page, which appears on its own sheet at the end of your paper, and through in-text citations, which appear throughout the body of your essay.

In-text citations (also called “parenthetical notes,” “parenthetical documentation” or “parenthetical citations”) direct your readers to your references page and indicate which work you used and where in the text you found it. In-text citations let your readers know *who* is responsible for the cited information, *when* the work was published, and *where* they can find it for themselves. You need to include an in-text citation when you borrow information or ideas, whether you quote directly or paraphrase in your own words.

- A typical APA in-text citation consists of the author's last name and the year, separated by a comma.
An important study (Foster, 2001) examined the relationship between social class and school success.
- If you've already mentioned the author's name in your sentence, simply include the year in parentheses.
Foster (2001) investigated the relationship between social class and school success.
- When quoting, use the original author's exact wording and include the page number along with the other reference information. When citing a quotation, be aware of the location of the period *after* the parenthetical citation.
The report found that “a significant positive correlation exists” (Foster, 2001, p. 82).
- When using specific parts of a source, indicate the page, chapter, figure, table, equation, or paragraph number (for an electronic source) of the specific part in your citation.
Another experiment (Williams, 1998, Table 2) found no relationship.
- When citing an entire work without using any direct quotations or paraphrases, page numbers are not necessary.

One report demonstrated how election-year politics often follow a standard pattern (Johnson & Cruz, 2006).

Use this rule of thumb: if you can point to the part of the source you're using, include a page number! If you can't point to it (because you're summing up the central focus of the work), then no page number is required in your in-text citation.

- When quoting a longer passage that runs forty or more words, indent the entire quotation ½ inch on the left, double spaced, with no quotation marks, and include the parenthetical citation after the quotation punctuation. This is called a block quotation.

Bell (2001) noted that readers and writers have a specific kind of relationship:

Writers stake out a territory to explore, provide maps designed for discovery, and invite readers to join the expedition. Readers, in turn, survey the invitation and weigh the possibilities for discovery before making a commitment to the journey. The next time you're in a bookstore or library, you can watch these negotiations in action. (p. 1)

- Within a paragraph, you don't need to include the year in subsequent references, as long as it can't be confused with other studies cited in the essay.

Other APA in-text citation guidelines and examples:

A work by two authors

Cite both authors every time the reference occurs in text. When including the authors' names in parentheses, use an ampersand (&) rather than the word "and" before the last author.

Johnson and Cruz (1985) explained that election-year politics follow standard patterns.

One report (Johnson & Cruz, 1985) demonstrated how election-year politics often follow a standard pattern.

A work by three or more authors

Only list the first author followed by "et al."

Horn et al. (1999) also highlighted the contributions of significant American jazz musicians.

If two different sources with multiple authors shorten to the same et al. form, add the name of the third author.

Incidents of harassment on college campuses have been on the decline (Kapoor, Bloom, Montez, et al., 2017).

Engineers were in disagreement about the best engineering approach (Kapoor, Bloom, Zucker, et al., 2017).

A work produced by a group

Refer to the full name and acronym of the group as you would a single author

Plans for a space plane had been put on hold (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1999).

A work without an author

Use a shortened version of the title, in quotation marks or italicized as appropriate, beginning with the first word on the References page.

Incidents of harassment on college campuses have been on the decline ("Study Finds," 2001).

The report *Recent Trends in Advertising* (2000) outlined several alternative approaches in the field.

An indirect source

When your source quotes another source, mention the name associated with the original quotation in the text, and then use the abbreviation "qtd. in" in the parentheses before your indirect source information.

Wagner stated that myth and history stood before him "with opposing claims" (qtd. in Thomas, 1997, p. 65).

Remember, any time you borrow information or ideas, whether you quote directly or paraphrase in your own words, it is necessary to document your source(s). It can be tricky to determine what is considered "common knowledge," so when in doubt, CITE!

For more detailed information and specific citation rules, please refer to the American Psychological Association website: <https://apastyle.apa.org>