APA In-Text Citation Examples

When citing a source in the text of your paper, APA style uses parenthetical in-text citations to tell readers where you obtained your information or ideas. You will give more detailed information about your sources in the reference section at the end of your paper.

You must credit any information you get from another source, including paraphrased text, direct quotations, and original ideas.

In-text citations usually contain the author’s last name and the date of publication, and are usually placed at the end of the sentence or paragraph that refers to the source. Notice, however, that the year of publication immediately follows the author’s name, even when the page number is at the end of the sentence.

Example: A journal article written by John Smith published in 2005, would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Example: A Web page called “Student Guide to Using APA,” with no publication date would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Example: A quote by John Smith, published in a book in 2002 would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Example: A study by Seidenberg and McClelland, cited in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, published in Daedalus, would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Many students have difficulty learning APA style at first (Smith, 2005, p. 122).

or

Smith (2005) stated that many students have difficulty learning APA style (p. 122).

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It is important to use APA correctly so that others can verify your research (“Student Guide,” n.d.).

Note: Do not include the URL of a website you cite in the body of your paper. The URL will be included in your reference page at the end of the paper.

According to Smith (2002), “Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn APA for the first time” (p. 122).

or

“Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn APA for the first time” (Smith, 2002, p. 122).

Note: Whenever possible, use the primary source.

“Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993, p. 53) fills a major gap in previous research.”

or

Coltheart (1993) cited the study by Seidenberg and McClelland, saying it “fills a major gap in previous research” (p. 53).

Note: If possible, use the primary source.

Basic APA Citation Elements & Order of Appearance

Author(s) + Date + Title + Source


How do I get help?

- Always check with your instructor. He or she is the final authority on what your paper should look like, even if his or her requirements differ from the guidelines outlined in the APA manual!

- Online Writing Center consultants are available.
  - Visit their webpage: http://www.nu.edu/OurPrograms/StudentServices/writingcenter.html
  - Go to the online scheduler and make an appointment for an online consultation: http://nu.mywconline.com

- Librarians are available for reference assistance.
  - Call 1-866-NU-ACCESS (x7900 or “Library”)
Sample Reference List


Note: Reference entries are double-spaced with a hanging indent and alphabetized by author last name. One space follows all punctuation. Give the author’s last name and first initials. Place parentheses around the publication date. Capitalize the first word of the title, subtitle, and proper nouns (if any). Italicize the title of the work and volume number (if any).

If you cannot find an example for your citation, follow the closest model in the APA Manual.