

Using APA for In-Text Citations

Whether you are paraphrasing or quoting sources, you must give authors the appropriate credit. In the text of your paper, include the following pieces of information.

- the last name (s) of the author (authors)
- the year of publication
- either the page number or paragraph number (for electronic sources)

Punctuation used in citing sources differs depending on where the quotation or paraphrased material falls within a sentence or the text.

In mid-sentence:

She stated, “The placebo effect was eliminated when specific behaviors were studied in the control group” (Mason, 2007, p.2), but she did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

At the end of sentence:

Mason (2008) found that “the placebo effect, which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when the first control group’s behaviors were studied over a set period of time” (p. 282).

OR

Mason found that “the placebo effect, which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when the first control group’s behaviors were studied over a set period of time” (2009, p. 282).

At the end of a block quote:

Mason (2008) found the following:

The placebo effect, which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner. Also the behaviors were never exhibited again even when drugs were administered. Earlier studies were clearly premature in attributing the results. (p. 276)

Other rules for in-text citations depend on different variables. Some examples have been included here; others may be found in the Sixth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

More than one author:

Johnson and Snow (2008), in their analysis of the effect of divorce in school age children, found a dramatic decrease academically in children during a family’s first year of a divorce (para. 29).

Research has shown a dramatic decrease academically in children during the first year of their parents' divorce (Johnson & Snow, 2008, para. 29).

A work with three to five authors or editors:

Identify all of them the first time you mention the work. In later references, use only the first author's name followed by "et al." and the year if it is the first citation of the reference within a paragraph.

Morgan, Hartman, Baty, and Jakeway (2008) found...

[as first citation in text]

Morgan et al. (2008) found...

[as subsequent first citation per paragraph thereafter]

Morgan et al. found...

[omit year from subsequent citation after first citation within a paragraph]

Author with more than one work published in one year:

Identify each work with a lowercase letter after the date; assign letters based on which title comes first alphabetically. The parenthetical would look something like—

(Dirkson, 2008a, para. 3)

OR

(Dirkson, 2008b, p. 7)

If referencing both works in a paraphrase, combine the years (alphabetically) in the parenthetical citation.

Several studies (Dirkson, 2008a, 2008b) indicate the increase in...

A group or organization as an author:

Corporations, associations, and government agencies are usually spelled out each time they appear in a text citation. The names of some group authors are spelled out in the first citation and abbreviated thereafter.

First text citation: (National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA], 2008, p. 9)

Subsequent text citations: (NCAA, 2008, p. 21)

Work in an anthology:

In your text, refer to the author of the work (or chapter), not to the editor of the anthology. Include the year the anthology was published not the date of the original work or chapter.

Matson argues that society inflicts harsh standards...(2009, p. 93).

Work cited indirectly in a secondary source:

Give the author or title of the original work preceded by “as cited in” to indicate that you are referring to a work mentioned in the work of another author. You will list the secondary source in your list of references. Say for instance, you have a book written by Smith, but in his book Smith refers to something by Brown. You do not look up the original source of Brown, but you still want to quote something from Brown. Smith will appear on the list of references; Brown will not.

The words we use simply appear, as Brown says, “at the point of utterance” (as cited in Smith, 2008, p. 129).

No author named:

In your text, use the complete title if it is short (capitalizing major words) or a few words for the title in parentheses, along with the year of publication. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article or chapter, and italicize the title of a periodical, book, brochure, or report:

on free care (“Study Finds,” 2009).

the book *College Bound Seniors* (2007)

When the work’s author is designated as “Anonymous”:

Cite in the text the word Anonymous followed by a comma and the date:

(Anonymous, 2009)

In the reference list, an anonymous work is alphabetized by the word Anonymous.

When the work has no date of publication:

When a work has no date of publication, cite in text the author’s name, followed by a comma and **n.d.** for “no date.”

Franklin (n.d.) believes that earthworms are destroyed by chemicals...(para. 19).

When citing a classical work:

When a date of publication is not applicable, you can cite the year of the translation you used, preceded by **trans.**, or the year of the version you used, followed by **version**. When you know the original date publication, include this in the citation.

(Aristotle, trans. 1931)

James (1890/1983)

Reference entries are not required for major classical works, such as ancient Greek and Roman works and the Bible; simply identify which version you used in the first citation in the text.

I Cor. 13:1 (Revised Standard Version)

When citing a personal communication:

Personal communications may be letters, memos, personal interviews and some electronic communications. Cite personal communications in the text only—not on the reference listing. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide the exact date of the interview.

M. Alter (personal communication, April 21, 2008)