APA Citation Style

Reference Citations in Text

APA Citation Style uses an author/date citation (author, date) format within the text of your paper. Your citations in text enable your reader to locate the full citations to the research you have used in your reference list. This process ensures that the ideas and words of others have been acknowledged.

APA 7 has introduced two types of in-text citations:

❖ Parenthetical Citation: Both author and date, separated by comma, appear in parentheses. For example: (Foutch, 2020)
❖ Narrative Citation: Author appears in the running text and the date appears in parentheses. For example: Foutch (2020) believes that APA.

➢ One author
If there is only one author of the work, use the last name of the author and the publication year of the work.

Example: McLaughlin (2012) argues that there is no single conception of school choice.

Example: Over time environmental factors such as competitive pressures (Henig, 2003)

➢ Two authors
If there are two authors of the work, include both names each time you cite their work. For parenthetical citations, use the ampersand (&) between author names: (Davies & Quirke, 2002)

Example: Davies and Quirke (2002) examine the rationale motives (Narrative Citation)

➢ Three or more authors
If the work has three or more authors, include the name of only the first author plus “et al.” in every citation unless it creates ambiguity. See page 267 of the APA manual for further explanation.

Example: Henig et al. (1998) challenged
➢ **Groups as Authors**
If the work is authored by a corporation, association, or government agency, spell out the complete name of the group for the first reference, then in subsequent references use an abbreviation for the group, if possible.

**Example: First reference**- In a recent survey, (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2019)

**Following reference**- ….significant survey results showed (NIMH, 2019).

➢ **No Author Listed**
If the work does not list an author (e.g. Web page), include words from the title in quotation marks and the publication year. You italicize the title of periodicals, books, brochures and reports.

**Example:** How to use APA citation style effectively (“Peabody Library”, 2018)


➢ **Secondary Sources**
Every effort should be made to cite only those sources you have read; however sometimes it is necessary to cite a source you have not read due to circumstances such as the original work is out of print or cannot be located. You list the secondary source in your reference list, but in-text you name the original work and provide a citation for the secondary source.

**Example:** Orth (as cited in Russert, 2004) states that APA is a very confusing citation style.

➢ **Specific Parts of a Source**
To cite a specific part of source, you will need to indicate the page, chapter, table, or figure within the citation in text. It is very important to give page numbers for quotations that you use.

**Example:** (Davies and Quirke, 2002, p. 439) (Guttmann, 1999, chap. 19)

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, preceded by the ¶ symbol or you can use the *para* abbreviation. If neither paragraph nor page numbers are available, you will need to cite the heading and the number of the paragraph so your reader can find the location of the material you have cited.

**Example:** (Wolfe, 2003, ¶ 2) (Coons, 2005, Conclusion section, para. 9)

➢ **Personal Communication**
To cite personal communications such as letters, email, interviews, or telephone conversations, you need to cite the initials and the last name of the communicator, and provide the exact date of the communication.

**Example:** (L.J. Foutch, personal communication, March 26, 2016)

**Note:** You cite personal communications in text only since the material cannot be recovered by the person reading your paper, therefore be sure to not list them in your reference list.