In-text Citation: APA style

When do I cite?

Cite when you are using information from another source that is not your own. You'll do this by either quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing from an outside source. A proper citation has **two parts**:

1. **The reference list (for APA)** is an alphabetical list of citations for the sources you used in your work. This list appears at the end of your work.

2. **In-text citations**. In-text citations are used in the body of your research project *each time* you use material from outside sources. In-text citations correspond to their entries in the reference list, meaning each in-text citation has a citation in the reference list and vice versa.

In-text citation examples in APA style

In-text citations include the author, publication year, and page number separated from each other by commas.

Quoting

When you quote from a source, use the source's exact words and enclose them in quotation marks. You also include an in-text citation. The examples below include in-text citations with author, date of publication, and page number.

❖ **Rule and example:** Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the date of publication in parentheses. Put the page number in parentheses at the end of the quotation before the ending punctuation mark.

As Davis (1978) reported, "If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists" (p. 26).

❖ **Rule and example:** When the author's name does not appear in the signal phrase, place the author's name, the date, and the page number in parentheses at the end of the quotation.

"If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists" (Davis, 1978, p. 26).

Paraphrasing

When paraphrasing from a source, express in your own words the ideas presented in the original source. A paraphrase is generally as long as the passage you are paraphrasing from the source. You do not use quotation marks since you are not quoting from the source, and although some instructors may require them, page numbers or other indication of specific parts of a source are not technically required.

Paraphrasing Examples:

According to Davis (1978), when they learned of an ape's ability to use sign language, both linguists and animal behaviorists were taken by surprise.

When they learned of an ape's ability to use sign language, both linguists and animal behaviorists were taken by surprise (Davis, 1978).

Continue…

Additional APA rules and examples for in-text citations

- ❖ **Work with up to two authors:** In all in-text citations for the work, list both authors every time.

Patterson and Linden (1981) agreed that the gorilla Koko acquired language more slowly than a normal speaking child. Koko acquired language more slowly than a normal speaking child (Patterson & Linden, 1981).

- ❖ **Work with 3-5 authors:** In the first reference for the work, list all authors.

The study noted a fluctuating divorce rate in Middletown between the 1920s and the 1970s (Caplow, Bahr, Chadwick, Hill, & Williamson, 1982).

*In subsequent citations for the work, use the first author's name followed by "et al."
While the incidence of wife abuse may not be higher than in the past, the researchers found that women were more willing to report it (Caplow et al., 1982).

- ❖ **Work with 6+ authors (for first and subsequent citations)**

Communes in the late 1960s functioned like extended families, with child-rearing responsibilities shared by all adult members (Berger et al., 1971).

- ❖ **Association, government agency, or corporation as author**

First citation: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1996)
Later citations: (NIMH, 1996)

- ❖ **When citing from a source that does not provide page numbers** (like a webpage), use paragraph numbers if available, or the name of the section followed by the number of the paragraph within that section.

(Myers, 2000, para. 5)

- ❖ **When citing from a source with no author given,** use the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) in quotation marks, followed by the publication year.

("Former FBI Agent," 2007)

Summarizing

When summarizing, state the main ideas or points of the original source in your own words. What makes a summary different than a paraphrase? While a paraphrase captures a small passage from a source, a summary captures the main idea(s) of an entire article, book, or book chapter, for example. The summary itself is much shorter and condensed than the original source. You still need to provide an in-text citation using the author and date. Page numbers, as with paraphrasing, are not required.

- ❖ The example below is a summary of an article. Notice its brevity – only two sentences.

Smith (2010) argues that clear writing depends upon not making assumptions about the audience's knowledge of a subject. Otherwise, communication will not be effective.