

Wayland Multidisciplinary Writing Center

APA In-Text Citations

Specific Guidelines

A complete APA in-text citation includes the author's last name, year of publication, and page number or range where the information is located, and it looks like this: (Author, year, p.#).

As with any documentation style, there are a variety of ways to correctly present quotes and in-text citations. This helps to provide varied sentence structure and to avoid dull writing.

Here are some examples:

- x "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water" (Jones, 2000, p.1).
- x According to Jones (2000), Jack and Jill had only gone to secure a water supply (p. 1).
- x Jones (2000) wrote that "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water" (p. 1).

When using signal phrases, use past tense or present perfect tense.

For example: "Kelvin (2003) found that the..." OR "Kelvin (2003) has found that the..."

Examples

Citing Two Works by the Same Author Published in the Same Year:

When citing two sources by the same author in the same year, use lowercase letters (a, b, c) with the year to differentiate the entries in the reference list. Also, use the same lowercase letters with the year in the in-text citation.

- x As stated by Smith (2012a), the brain becomes more active when exposed to light, explaining why artificial light, like television, can affect sleep (p. 254).
- x Smith (2012b) also conceded that "when a person loses sleep, the body keeps track and creates a 'sleep deficit'" (p. 670).

Citing a Work by Two Authors:

Both authors' names appear in parentheses in the signal phrase each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between authors' names within the text. However, you should use the ampersand (&) between the names in parentheses.

- x As Zhang and Liu (2012) stated, "This article aims to contribute to the existing literature in two main aspects" (p. 1490).
- x "This article aims to contribute to the existing literature in two main aspects" (Zhang & Liu, 2012, p. 1490).

Citing a Work by Three to Five Authors:

The first time you cite the source, you must list all the authors in the signal phrase or in parentheses. The word "and" appears between the author names within the text, and the ampersand (&) appears in the parentheses.

- x Morriss, Bogart, Meiners, and Dorchak (2011) conceded that "diversification makes sense only if the new sources of energy are effective and reliable" (p. 19).

When subsequently citing the same work, use only the first author's last name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase or in parentheses. Also, if it is the first time within a paragraph to mention that particular reference, include the year of publication in parentheses after "et al." You may omit the year from the reference if it is repeated within that same paragraph.

- x Morriss et al. (2011) also wrote, "The best way to encourage development of new technologies is not for the government to select some favorites and subsidize them" (p. 19).

Citing a Work by Six or More Authors:

The first author's last name will appear followed by "et al." in both the signal phrase and the parentheses.

- x Ammari et al. (2014) wrote that "both the preserved and deteriorated patterns also exist in the general population" (p. 355).
- x As previously noted, "both the preserved and deteriorated patterns also exist in the general population" (Ammari et al., 2014, p. 355).

Citing a Work with No Author:

If a source does not list its author you may use the entire source title in the signal phrase or shorten the title and cite it in the parenthetical reference. Titles of books and reports will be

- x According to the American Educational Research Association (1992) [hereafter referred to as the AERA], "In 1982, the average number of Carnegie units... earned in agriculture by all high school students in the United States was 0.2" (p. 61).

Citing and Formatting a Block Quote:

As with other documentation styles, APA requires special formatting for block quotes, which are indented 40-60 characters from the left margin.