Citation Help for APA, 6th Edition: In-text Citations

How To? In-Text and Parenthetical Explanation

Parenthetical documentation or in-text citations tells the reader where you got any and all information that did not come from inside your own head. This is more obvious when you are directly quoting from a source, but it is also needed when you have summarized or paraphrased from a source and even if you got an idea from somewhere else.

In order to avoid plagiarism, it is extremely important that you cite all words and ideas that you got from somewhere else.

Put the information about the source in parentheses in the text of your paper as opposed to a footnote where the source information is at the bottom of the page or an endnote where it goes at the end of your paper. There are slight differences depending on which style you are using.

- Give the author's last name and the publication year.
- Only use page numbers for a direct quote.
- Make sure the source information in parentheses matches with your works cited.
- The punctuation for the sentence goes AFTER the parenthesis.
- If your quote is longer than **forty words**, set it off in a **block text** by beginning a new line, indenting one inch, and do not add quotation marks. At the end of the quote put the period after the last word of the sentence followed by the parentheses.

In-Text and Parenthetical Citation Examples

Quote with author's name in text	Smith (2006) states that, "..." (p. 112).
Quote with author's name in reference	This is quoted as, "…" (Smith, 2006, pp. 112-114).
Paraphrasing with author's name in text	Smith (2006) stated these facts, too.
Paraphrasing author's name in reference	This fact has been stated (Smith, 2006).
No author – give title of work abbreviated to first major word	This book is true (*Long,* 2005).
Italics for books, "quotation marks" for articles and web pages	This article is true ("Long," 2005).
Citing entire website – put URL	This has evidence (www.pubmed.gov).
Quote from website – use paragraph number	According to, "…" (Smith, 2000, para. 4).
More than one author with same last name	P. L. Smith (2003) and J. M. Smith (2005)
Source has more than one author in text	Smith and Lee agree that (2006)
Source has more than one author in reference	This is agreed upon (Smith & Long, 2006).
Citing more than one work	We all agree (Smith, 2006; Lee, 2004).
Citing more than one work by same author published in the same year	We all agree (Smith, 2006a; Smith, 2006b; Smith, 2006c)
	Smith (2006a) believes .....
	It has been reported ... (Smith, 2006c)

No Author?

In-Text Citation Example:
In the text, *For All Practical Purposes* (2003)

Parenthetical Citation Example:
Plagiarism is described .... ("Student Handbook," 2008)

Explanation:
When there is no author your in-text and parenthetical citations should begin with the first couple words of the title and include the year of publication. When citing books, videos, brochures, journals, reports, etc. italicize the title. When citing web pages, journal article titles, or chapter titles use quotation marks around the title.

In-Text and Parenthetical Citation Styles

One Author:

First In-Text Citation	Johnson (2008)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	Johnson (2009)
First Parenthetical Citation	(Johnson, 2007)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(Johnson, 2007)

Two Authors:

First In-Text Citation	Smith and Jones (2009)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	Smith and Jones (2009)
First Parenthetical Citation	(Smith & Jones, 2009)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(Smith & Jones, 2009)

Three to Five Authors:

First In-Text Citation	Carlson, Rodriguez, and Inez (2004)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	Carlson et al. (2004)
First Parenthetical Citation	(Carlson, Rodriguez, & Inez, 2004)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(Carlson et al., 2004)

Six Authors:

First In-Text Citation	Walsh et al. (2000)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	Walsh et al. (2000)
First Parenthetical Citation	(Walsh et al., 2000)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(Walsh et al., 2000)

Group Authors with Identifiable Abbreviations:

First In-Text Citation	The College of St. Scholastica (CSS, 2006)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	CSS (2006)
First Parenthetical Citation	(The College of St. Scholastica [CSS], 2006)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(CSS, 2006)

Group Authors without Indentifiable Abbrevations:

First In-Text Citation	University of Wisconsin (2007)
Subsequent In-Text Citations	University of Wisconsin (2007)
First Parenthetical Citation	(University of Wisconsin, 2007)
Subsequent Parenthetical Citations	(University of Wisconsin, 2007)

Multiple Authors in the Same Citation?

Example:

Several studies report ... (D'Esposito & Gardner, 1999; Griffiths & Brophy, 2005; Kim & Sin, 2007).

Explanation:
Multiple sources within the same parenthetical citation should be listed alphabetically by author. Separate each citation with a semicolon.

Email, Interviews, Telephone Conversations, etc.?

Example:

(J. A. Smith, personal communication, January 3, 2007) OR J. A. Smith (personal communication, January 3, 2007)

Explanation:

Emails, nonarchived discussion groups, letters, memos, telephone conversations, and personal interviews are considered *personal communications* in APA. This type of communication can be difficult to provide recoverable data; therefore, these types of communication are not included in the Reference list. Cite personal communications within the body of your paper only.

Multiple Works by Same Author in Same Year?

In-Text Citation Example:

Smith (2006a) believes .....

Parenthetical Citation Example:

It has been reported ... (Smith, 2006c)

Explanation:

For works with the same author written in the same year should include a letter after the date. Begin with the letter "a" and continue with "b", "c," etc.

Citing Secondary Source?

What is a secondary source?

A secondary source is a citation or reference you discovered in a book, article, or other item that discusses information found in an orginal source.

Example:

Jacobson describes nursing theories .... (as cited in Nihart, 1999).

Explanation:

Use sparingly!! Secondary sources should only be used when the original source (or primary source) cannot be located. The original work should be named in the body of your paper. In parentheses begin with "as cited in". Then, add the last name of the author of the secondary source followed by the year of publication. Be sure to include a comma between the author's name and the publication date. End with a period if at the end of a sentence.