

APA IN-TEXT CITATIONS 7TH ED.

WHAT ARE IN-TEXT CITATIONS?

In-text citations provide your reader with information about sources you include within the main text of your paper. These in-text (or “parenthetical”) citations **must correspond** to each respective source’s entry in your References page. (The References page is a separate section of your paper included after the main body of your text.)

Citations are **required** any time you directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize an idea you borrow from someone else. In APA format, paraphrases and summaries are generally preferred over direct quotes.

Beyond this handout, you can find more specific information on formatting your APA in-text citations in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition). The Writing Center has copies you can come look at or you can find copies at Lied Library under the call number BF76.7 .P83 2020.

BASIC GUIDES

To create an in-text citation, you can use narrative/signal phrase citations or parenthetical citations. APA citations follow the **author-date format**: the author’s last name followed by year of publication.

Narrative citations mention the author in a signal phrase and the publication year in parentheses:

Diaz (2020) noted that...

Parenthetical citations place the author and year at the end of the sentence without using a signal phrase:

Little Nightmares II tells an untraditional coming-of-age tale through visual story telling (Diaz, 2020).

If using a direct quote, you **must include** the page number (or other location identifier if there is no page number) in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Narrative/Signal phrase: Haggis (2016) argues, “In the past five years especially, there have been more games that tell personal stories either inspired by life or that are autobiographical” (p. 21).

Parenthetical citation: It is useful to note that “in the past five years especially, there have been more games that tell personal stories either inspired by life or that are autobiographical” (Haggis, 2016, p. 21).

The following sections illustrate the narrative/signal phrase citation, followed by the parenthetical versions of in-text citations, for various types of sources. Note that we have not included the location identifier for all of these examples, but you must have one when including a direct quote.

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TEXTS WITH ONE AUTHOR

List the author's last name and the publication year, and end the sentence with the page number if using a direct quote:

According to Chrysler (2003)...

(Chrysler, 2003, p. 5).

TEXTS WITH MULTIPLE AUTHORS

Two Authors

List both authors each time you cite the work. Use "and" between the names within the text and use "&" within parentheses:

Research by Masters and Johnson (1970) concluded that . . .

(Masters & Johnson, 1970).

Three or More Authors

Use only the first author's name, followed by "et al." in all citations.

Plana et al. (2011) argues that...

(Plana et al., 2011).

TEXTS WITH NO KNOWN AUTHOR

If there is no author listed, use the source's title and publication year. The title should match the first information provided in your References entry for the source.

Plugged-In Generation (2007) asserts...(p. 15).

("Television Violence," 2002, para. 3).

If the title of the work is very long, use an abbreviated or shortened version of the title for your citation.

TEXTS WITH A CORPORATE AUTHOR

If a source's author is a corporation, government agency, or non-profit organization, write its full name when you reference it. However, if the group's name can be abbreviated, do so in subsequent citations.

First Use	Subsequent Uses
The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2007) found...	The NIMH (2007) found...
(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2007, p. 4).	(NIMH, 2007, p. 15).

TEXTS WITH NO PUBLICATION DATE

If the source has no publication date, you must include “(n.d.)” in narrative and parenthetical citations:

Magnus (n.d.) stated...

(Magnus, n.d., para. 6).

If the source has been accepted for publication, but has not yet been published, use “in press”.

Baldwin (in press) claims...

(Baldwin, in press).

TEXTS WITH NO PAGE NUMBERS

If the source you are using (e.g. a webpage) does not have pages, you can use paragraph numbers, section headings, or both instead:

Paragraph Numbers	Section Headings	Both
Basu and Jones (2007) indicated...(para. 4).	Verbunt et al. (2008) asserted that...(Discussion section).	DeAngelis (2018) further emphasized...(Musical Forays section, para. 4).
(Basu & Jones, 2007, para. 4).	(Verbunt et al., 2008, Discussion section).	(DeAngelis, 2018, Musical Forays section, para. 4)

SPECIALIZED CITATION INSTANCES

Citing a Source within a Source

APA discourages the use of secondary sources and always prefers the use of primary sources. However, if you cannot access a primary source yourself (e.g. because it is out of print), you might refer to a secondary source that discusses it. To write a citation in this case, mention the primary source first, then clarify that you borrowed information from it “as cited in” the secondary source you used:

According to Lawrence (1962), ... (as cited in Bennet et al., 2012).

(Lawrence, 1962, as cited in Bennet et al., 2012).

Citing Multiple Sources in the Same Sentence

If you have two citations within one parenthesis, order them alphabetically (as they should appear in your References list) and separate them with semicolons:

Miller (2002) and Shafranske and Mahoney (1998) examined . . . (p. 4).

(Miller, 2002; Shafranske & Mahoney, 1998, p. 4).

Citing Multiple Authors with the Same Name

If you have two or more works by the same author which were also published in the same year, the in-text citation **and** the References entry should include lowercase letters (a, b, c) after the year to distinguish the sources from one another. If there’s no publication date, use dashes before the lowercase letters (-a, -b, -c).

Baheti (2001a) asserted...

(Baheti, 2001b).

A REMINDER ABOUT PUNCTUATION

If you use a direct quote, keep in mind that some types of punctuation belong inside the quotation marks, and some belong outside:

Inside	Outside	It depends!
Commas	Semicolons	Question marks
Periods	Colons	Exclamation points

Question marks and exclamation points belong outside the quote if you are adding them in but belong inside the quote if they are part of the original material.

Is Your Source Type Not Listed?

If your source does not fit into any of the categories provided, refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Edition) for guidance.

The Writing Center and the University Libraries have copies of the manual, so you are welcome to come to either facility to use the book. If you come to the Writing Center, you may ask the front desk for access to the manual. If you come to the Lied Library, the call number for the book is BF76.7 .P83 2020.

If the manual does not provide any insight on your source, determine what citation type is closest to your source type and use that citation format. You may also ask your instructor for direction.

You may also submit a Quick Question or schedule a virtual consultation with the Writing Center if you want a consultant's help with learning how to cite your sources.