

Citing Your Sources: APA

Search this Guide

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The Williams Honor System requires you to properly acknowledge sources you have used in course assignments. This guide provides basic information on how to cite sources and examples for formatting citations in common citation styles.

CITING BASICS WRITING & CITING ACS APA CHICAGO: AUTHOR-DATE CHICAGO: NOTES MLA

CITATION TOOLS



APA

ABOUT APA
STYLE

» HOW TO
FORMAT IN-
TEXT
CITATIONS

HOW TO
FORMAT THE
REFERENCE
LIST

HOW DO I
DEAL WITH
___?

EXAMPLES:
BOOKS,

How to Format In-Text Citations

For more detailed information see *Publication Manual* sections 6.11-6.21.

An in-text citation provides your reader with two pieces of information:

1. The **last name(s) of the author(s)** from the corresponding reference list entry
2. The **date** of the cited information

Standard Formatting of the In-Text Citation

- Insert the **author's last name and the year of publication** in the sentence or in parentheses.
Myrick (2015) examined the guilty pleasures of watching Internet cats.
Viewing online cats could help to

Need
More
Info?



Publication
Manual of the
American
Psychological
Association
Call Number:
BF76.7 .P83
2010
Location:
Sawyer
Reference

CHAPTERS

EXAMPLES:

ARTICLES

EXAMPLES:

WEB, BLOGS,
SOCIAL
MEDIA

EXAMPLES:

DATA SETS
AND
REPORTS

EXAMPLES:

MUSIC, FILM,
TV, IMAGES

EXAMPLES:

UNPUBLISHED/ARCHIVAL

regulate emotions, much like pet therapy in real life (Myrick, 2015).

- **Multiple Authors:** join names with & in the parenthetical reference and reference list. Use "and" in sentences.
 - 2 authors: cite both names every time.
 - 3-5 authors: cite all authors the first time and then use the first author's last name and et al. for subsequent references. However, if shortening the authors leads to multiple references with the same author-date form, use as many subsequent names as needed, followed by a comma and et. al, to make it unique.
 - 6 or more authors: use only the first author's last name and et al. for all citations. If shortening the authors leads to multiple references with the same author-date form, use as many subsequent names as needed, followed by a comma and et. al, to make it unique.

(Hinsch & Sheldon, 2013)... Hinsch and Sheldon (2016) found....

(Nabi, Finnerty, Domschke, & Hull, 2006) Nabi et al. (2006) demonstrated

- For primary authors with the **same last name**, include their initials in all text citations, even if the publications are from different years.

(J. Moher, 2012)

(M. Moher & Feigenson, 2013)

reference,
Schow
Reference

- APA Style FAQs Clarifies frequent areas of confusion with using APA style.
- APA Style Blog Official companion to the *Publication Manual*. Provides guidance on topics not fully covered in the manual.

Ask Us



- **No Author**

- Check to see if an organization or group authored the content. Use their name in place of a personal author. Use the full name each time if using an abbreviation would not be readily understood by your reader.

Children with bipolar disorder are treated in similar ways as adults (National Institute of Mental Health, 2015).

- If there is no organization, use the first few words of the title of the corresponding reference list entry. Put double quotation marks around titles of articles, chapters, and web pages; use italics for book titles, brochures, and reports.

Polls show that black workers approve of labors unions more than white workers ("Black Workers Matter," 2016).

- **No Date:** use n.d. in place of the date.

When to Include Page Numbers

For more detailed information see *Publication Manual* sections 6.03-6.10.

When **paraphrasing**, APA style does not require page numbers in the in-text citation. However, authors are encouraged to include page numbers if it will help the reader locate the relevant information in longer texts. Consult with your professor regarding the need for page numbers for paraphrased information.

For **direct quotations**, the author, year and

What Needs to be Cited?

Ask Us

- Exact wording taken from any source, including freely available websites
- Paraphrases of passages
- Indebtedness to another person for an idea
- Use of another student's work
- Use of your own previous work

You do not need to cite common knowledge.

page number must be included. The page number can be given in parentheses at the end of the exact quotation or incorporated into the in-text citation.

Newman (1994) concluded "sibling conflict is so common that its occurrence is taken for granted" (p. 123).

Such findings have prompted one researcher to conclude, "Sibling conflict is so common that its occurrence is taken for granted" (Newman, 1994, p. 123).

For direct quotations from sources without page numbers, use paragraph numbers, if visibly numbered in the document. Otherwise, use the heading name and count the number of paragraphs after the heading to the paragraph containing the quotation.

(Smith, 2016, para. 1)

(Lee 2015, Discussion section, para. 4)

Ask Us

