

APA Style Citation Tips

Social science instructors will most often ask students to use the American Psychological Association (APA) system for citation. APA style requires both in-text citations and a references list at the end of the document. This handout explores in-text citations only. For more information about APA style, please refer to your *A Pocket Style Manual* by Diana Hacker.

1. What do APA style in-text citations look like?

APA in-text citation notation includes the author's name, the year of publication, and the page number.

If the author's name is mentioned in a signal phrase (a phrase introducing the quotation or paraphrase), insert the year of publication immediately after the author's name. APA style encourages writers to use signal phrases with authors' names. If the author's name is not listed in the signal phrase, however, include the author's name in the parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence.

AUTHOR NAMED IN SIGNAL PHRASE:

Light, Cox, and Calkins (2009) note that, for strategic learners, "learning is essentially an organizing experience in which effort and time are strategically managed" (p. 53).

AUTHOR NAMED IN PARENTHETICAL CITATION:

For strategic learners, "learning is essentially an organizing experience in which effort and time are strategically managed" (Light, et al., 2009, p. 53).

2. What if the source I'm using has two authors?

APA style requires writers to name both authors in the signal phrase or in the parentheses each time they cite the work. In the parenthetical citation, use "&" between the authors' names; in the signal phrase, use "and."

AUTHORS NAMED IN SIGNAL PHRASE:

According to Sothorn and Gordon (2003), "Environmental factors may contribute as much as 80% to the causes of childhood obesity" (p. 104).

AUTHORS NAMED IN PARENTHETICAL CITATION:

Obese children often engage in limited physical activity (Sothorn & Gordon, 2003, p. 104).

3. What if I find more than one author arguing the same thing?

Include information (name, publication date, page number) about both authors in the same parenthetical citation. Separate the two (or more) information groups with a semicolon. You should also present the citations in the order that they appear in your reference list.

EXAMPLE:

Both authors argue that writer's block is a complex problem that eludes easy definition (Murray, 1985, p. 220; Rose, 1984, p. 227).

4. What if I'm using a source that contains quotations from other people or resources?

When someone's quoted words appear in a source written by a third party, name the original source in your signal phrase and list the secondary source in your parenthetical citation, preceded by the words "as cited in." You should also include the secondary source in your references list. begin the parenthetical citation with the abbreviation "qtd. in."

EXAMPLE:

Maxine Kumin describes the trouble with vague language, advocating that writers instead use "a terrible specificity of detail" (as cited in Murray, 1985, p. 221).