



APA 7th Edition: In-text Citation

APA in-text citation is used to:

- Support your claims in a standard and uniform way
- Strengthen your argument with facts, statistics, and other ideas
- Add credibility to your work by properly attributing ownership to any source material used

APA In-text citations utilize an **author/date system** meaning each citation will have the author's last name and year of publication, example (Ruiz, 2022). If no year is available, then put n.d., example (Smith, n.d.). Additionally, in-text citations are used in either a parenthesis, normally at the end of a sentence or immediately after the quote, known as a *parenthetical citation*, or the in-text citation is integrated into a sentence with author and year at the beginning and the page number, if a direct quote, at the end, known as a *narrative citation*.

Examples:

Parenthetical citation: ... was completed (Demosthenes, 2020).

Narrative citation: Demosthenes (2020) found that...

Three types of APA in-text citations:

Direct quote - quote is fewer than 40 words, placed in double quotation marks

Block quote - quote is 40 words or more words or takes up more than four lines of text

Paraphrase - restatement of another's ideas in your own words

*APA prefers paraphrasing

1. Direct quote. The quote will need to be placed in quotations, and the citation needs to include the author, year of publication, and page number for the reference.

- Use "p." for a single page
- Use "pp." for multiple pages, with the page numbers separated by a dash, example (pp. 33-37) and discontinuous pages are separated by a comma, example (pp. 32, 37)



Sources that do not contain pages mean that you may need to reference another logical identifying element:

- a paragraph "para." or "paras. 1-2"
- a chapter number "Chapter"
- a section number "Section"
- a table number "Table"
- a time stamp, hour: minute: second, or minute: second, where the quote begins when using audio or visual sources, example: (Patel & Gupta, 2019, 1:27:34).



*author/date, page number, and punctuation highlighted for attention throughout examples

Example of **direct quote, parenthetical citation**:

The item read, "high performance along one domain does not translate to high performance along another" (Ervin, 2018, p. 47).

Example of **direct quote, narrative citation**:

Ervin (2108) argued that "high performance along one domain does not translate to high performance along another" (p. 47).

2. Block quote. Start the quotation on a new line after the signal phrase, which will have a colon after it. Indent the quote 1/2 inch from the left margin, i.e., in the same place you would begin a new paragraph and double spaced like the rest of the paper. These quotes do not contain quotation marks ("..."), nor is there a period after the final parenthesis but rather at the end of the actual quote, before the page number.

Example of **block quote, parenthetical citation**:

*note the signal phrase with its colon here and that the actual quote is indented underneath it

There appears to be an interesting misconception in parent – child relationships:

The treatment of young children by their parents almost always involves a denial of autonomy; it involves some aspects of ownership, though not all. On the other hand, in almost all times and places it has been thought bad for parents to treat their children as lacking in bodily integrity – battery and abuse, though common, are more or less universally deplored. (Nussbaum, 1995, p. 262)

Example of **block quote, narrative citation**:

*note the signal phrase here also contains the author and year

Martha Nussbaum's article "Objectification" (1995) points to an interesting misconception in parent – child relationships:

The treatment of young children by their parents almost always involves a denial of autonomy; it involves some aspects of ownership, though not all. On the other hand, in almost all times and places it has been thought bad for parents to treat their children as lacking in bodily integrity – battery and abuse, though common, are more or less universally deplored. (p. 262)



3. Paraphrase. When paraphrasing from another’s work, you only have to refer to the author and year of publication in the in-text citation and may disregard page numbers. If paraphrasing more than one or two sentences, cite the work on first mention. It is not necessary to cite again as long as it is clear that the same work continues to be paraphrased. If continuing to another paragraph, repeat the citation and ensure the context indicates the continuation of the original author’s idea.

Example of **paraphrase, parenthetical citation**

The dread of isolation is not merely caused by someone being alone. Rather, isolation’s dread exists due to the condition of one’s choice to be alone within a highly populated city full of close friends, family and loved ones (Tolstoy, 1886).

Example of **paraphrase, narrative citation**

Tolstoy’s novella, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (1886), teaches us that the dread of isolation is not merely caused by someone being alone. Rather, isolation’s dread exists due to the condition of one’s choice to be alone within a highly populated city full of close friends, family and loved ones.

In-text Citation source styles:

- One author
 Parenthetical: ... (Arellano, 2020).
 Narrative: Arellano (2020)...
- Two authors. Use the ampersand (&) for parenthetical and “and” for narrative
 Parenthetical: ... (Arellano & Navarro, 2020).
 Narrative: Arellano and Navarro (2020)...
- Three or more authors. Use “et al.”
 Parenthetical: ... (Arellano et al., 2020).
 Narrative: Arellano et al. (2020)...
- Group author with abbreviation, first use



Parenthetical: ...(San Antonio College [SAC], 2020)

Narrative: San Antonio College (SAC, 2020)...

Subsequent use

Parenthetical: ...(SAC, 2020)

Narrative: SAC (2020)

- Group author without abbreviation

Parenthetical: ...(Texas A&M University, San Antonio, 2020)

Narrative: Texas A&M University, San Antonio (2020)...

- Video or audio source. For YouTube use the account that uploaded the content, for Film use the director, for a song use the artist. *Note, some artists use a special stage name, do not shorten it. For example, use Lady Gaga and NOT Gaga.

Parenthetical:...(Bay, 2019)

Narrative: Bay (2019)...

Resources used to develop this handout:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

American Psychological Association. (2021). *APA 7th manual made easy: Full concise guide simplified for students*. Appearance Publishers.

<https://apastyle.apa.org>