

# APA Format: In-Text Citations



This handout is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Sixth Edition, 2010.

Writers incorporate researched information into papers in three ways: **paraphrase**, **summary**, and **quotation**. All three uses require citation to do the following:

- Identify the sources used in the paper.
- Direct the reader to the alphabetical list of References.
- Clearly distinguish the writer's own ideas from information taken from sources.

**For Paraphrases and Summaries**, cite references in text with (**author, year**). The page or paragraph is optional, but can be helpful.

- For references with one or two authors, give the last name(s) and date in the citation. If the citation is in parentheses, use the ampersand (&) rather than the word and.

Examples:

Some studies (Svartvik & Leech, 2006) have suggested that...  
Svartvik and Leech (2006) have suggested that...  
Svartvik and Leech have suggested that ..... (2006).

- For three, four, or five authors, give all names and the date for the first citation. Use the Latin abbreviation et al. when the references are cited subsequent times. For all citations with six or more authors, cite only the first author's surname followed by et al. and the date.

Examples:

The data of Fitzpatrick, Kroll, and Levonian (2016) supported the argument that...  
Data from the most recent research study (Fitzpatrick et al., 2016) also indicated...

- If you cite a work without an author, cite the first few words of the title and the year. Use "quotation marks" around the title of an article or chapter; *italicize* the title of a book, brochure, or report.

Examples:

...free medical care ("Study Finds," 2004).  
The book *Breaking Through: College Reading* (1999) advised...

- Multiple citations in parentheses are placed alphabetically, separated by a semi-colon and a space.

Example:

Several studies (Davidson, 2002; Gardiner, 1998; Matthews, 2006) have indicated...

- If you cite a work referenced within another author's work, you must distinguish between the two.

Example:

Research by Smith (as cited in Jones, 1999) demonstrated...  
**Note:** Only the Jones reference would be included on the References list.

- If the source is a corporation, organization, group, government agency, or association, treat the organization as the author. When citing a well-known entity, abbreviations may be used after the first citation.

Examples:

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data (2008), . . .

These findings show corporate profits increasing (Bureau of Economic Analysis [BEA], 2008).

**Note:** For each subsequent citation, use the abbreviation: (BEA, 2008).

**For Quotations**, cite references in text with **(author(s), year, page)**.

Example:

Bellingham, Cohen, Jones, and Spaniol (2008) defined spiritual health as “the ability to live in the wholeness of life” (p. 18).

Spiritual health is defined as “the ability to live in the wholeness of life” (Bellingham, Cohen, Jones, & Spaniol, 2008, p. 18).

For a quotation of more than 40 words:

- a) Type as a free-standing block of text, indented ½ inch from the left margin (double-spaced as usual).
- b) Do **not** use quotation marks.
- c) Note that for a block quote, the **period** comes after the quotation, followed by the page number in parentheses.
- d) For a quotation of more than one paragraph, indent the first line of all paragraphs after the first paragraph.

Example:

Hawking and Mlodinow (2005) described the information that a star’s luminosity can provide:

But the apparent brightness of a star depends not only on its distance, but also on how much light it radiates (its luminosity). A dim star, if near enough, will outshine the brightest star in any distant galaxy. So in order to use apparent brightness as a measure of its distance, we must know a star’s luminosity.

The luminosity of nearby stars can be calculated from their apparent brightness because their parallax enables us to know their distance. Hubble noted that these nearby stars could be classified into certain types by the kind of light they give off. (pp. 51-52)

**Note:** If you summarize, paraphrase or quote personal or email communication, give the initials as well as the surname of the source, and provide as exact a date as possible. Do **not** include it in the References.

Example:

This idea, according to D. C. Boehm, is held by those who believe... (personal communication, May 22, 2009).

This idea is held by scholars who believe... (D. C. Boehm, personal communication, May 22, 2009).