

APA 7th Edition In-text Citations

Below are a few examples using APA 7th Edition. **The final authority on essay and citation format is always your professor.**



General Rules:

- Every in-text citation must correspond to an entry in your list of references.
- If available, in-text citations must include the author/editor and year of publication.
- Direct quotes must also include a page or paragraph number.

How do I put this together? There are many ways to include this information in your text.

Examples:

- Smith (2010) surveyed this phenomenon.
- A famous survey of this phenomena (Smith, 2010) showed that...
- In 2010, Smith demonstrated that...
- “White rats are the best subjects for this test,” said Smith (2010, pp.50-51).
- Smith went on to explain, “Hamsters make better pets than lab rats” (2010, p.51)

Paraphrasing and summarizing only require including the author’s surname and the date of publication. Direct quotes require surname, date, **and** page/paragraph number.

If you have established citation information in the sentence before a quote, include whatever citation information is missing from that in the parenthetical citation.

Examples:

- Jones said “[x]” (1998, p.100).
Named the author before quote, so only the date and page number are required in the parenthetical citation
- In a 1998 study, Jones posits that “[x]” (p.100).
Author and date of publication are presented in the sentence before the quote, so only the page number is needed in the parenthetical citation.
- “[x]” (Jones, 1998, p.100).
No information presented before quote, so all information is required in the parenthetical citation

Parentheses are used to indicate the parts of an in-text citation not included in prose. The parts of the parenthetical citation (author, year, page) are separated with commas. Notice that “**p.**” is used for a citation on **one page** and “**pp.**” is used for a citation that spans **multiple pages**. Lastly, notice that the period goes at the end of the sentence, **outside of the final parentheses**.

Citing works by two authors:

Cite both authors throughout the work. Citations inside parentheses use the ampersand (&). Citations in text use “and”.

- According to the study, 25% of people prefer cats over dogs (Smith & Brown, 2004).
- Smith and Brown (2004) surveyed this phenomenon.

Citing works by three or more authors:

Cite all of them the first time you refer to the work, but in subsequent references follow the surname of the first author by et al. (With a period)

- A recent survey (Smith, Brown, & Black, 2005) showed... [first reference]
- Smith et al. (2005) showed... [second reference]

Citing works with no author or unknown author:

Cite by the title in the signal phrase, or use the first word or two of the title in the parentheses. Punctuate these titles as standard. APA style calls for capitalizing important words in titles when they are written in the text (but not when they are written in reference lists).

- A similar study was done of students learning to format research papers ("Using Citations," 2001).

Citing an organization as an author:

If the author is an organization or a government agency, mention the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source, like with any other author.

- According to the American Psychological Association (2000),...

If the organization has a well-known abbreviation, you can establish the abbreviation using brackets in the first citation and then use the abbreviation in later citations. If multiple cited organizations have the same abbreviation, do not use abbreviations.

- First citation: (Mothers Against Drunk Driving [MADD], 2000)
- Second citation: (MADD, 2000)

Citing works by authors with the same surname:

Include first initials.

- L. Smith and P. Smith said...
- (E. Johnson, 2001; L. Johnson, 1998)

Citing Personal Communications (emails, interviews, letters, etc.):

Give the communicator's initials and surname and as precise a date as possible. **Personal communications are not included in reference lists.**

- (R. J. Smith, personal communication, March 3, 2010)

Citing More than One Work at a Time (two or more works in the same parentheses):

When the citation is for works by the same author, name the author once and then order them by publication date. **Citations without a date come first, and are marked "n.d."**

- (Smith, n.d., 2007, 2009)...

When the citations are works by different authors, order them alphabetically by surname, separating them with semicolons.

- (Brown, 1990; Griggs, 1998; Pepper, 1999)

Citing Multiple Works Written in the Same Year by the Same Author:

Use lower-case letters (a, b, c) with the year to order the entries in the reference list. Use the coinciding lower-case letters with the year in the in-text citation.

Reference list:

Jensen, D. (2009a). *A work to be admired*. New York, NY: ABC Publishing.

Jensen, D.(2009b). *More works to be admired*. New York, NY: ABC Publishing.

Include the corresponding lower-case letters after the years in the in-text citation:

- According to a Harvard study (Jensen, 2009a),... While similar study (Jensen, 2009b) suggests...

Citing a Quotation as Cited by Someone Else (Citing indirect sources):

It is best practice to locate and cite the original source of a quotation. If this is not possible, name the original source in your signal phrase, but cite the secondary source in the reference list and as and in text citation: Anderson claimed, "Cats are better than dogs" (as cited in Johnson, 2008, p. 400).