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APA In Text Citations (Handout)

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APA In-Text Citations

Handout courtesy of Angela Gulick

This handout provides basic templates for documenting the most common types of sources according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition.

In-Text Citations for Personal Communications

Personal communications include email messages, personal correspondence, and interviews. To cite a personal communication, include the following **each time** you cite that source: the name of communicator, the words personal communication, and the date of the communication. Here are two examples:

B. D. Doud discussed the effects of carpet fiber digestion in rats, claiming that male rats most often chose fibers from Astroturf (**personal communication, May 15, 2009**).

OR

One researcher who studied the effects of carpet fiber digestion in rats found that male rats most often chose fibers from Astroturf (**B. D. Doud, personal communication, May 15, 2009**).

In-Text Citations for Written and Electronic Sources

Include the following details **each time** you use that source:

- author(s) last name(s). Sometimes, the author is a business, school, or government agency. If you cannot find any author, replace the author with the first few words of the title of the source.
- year of publication
- page number(s) of any paraphrased, summarized, or directly quoted information. **Note:** The APA system used to require page numbers only for direct quotes. However, according to the new manual, “When paraphrasing or referring to an idea contained in another work, you are encouraged to provide a page or a paragraph number, especially when it would help an interested reader locate the relevant information in a long or complex text” (p. 171).
- For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number preceded by the abbreviation *para*. If neither paragraphs nor page numbers are visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following that heading to direct the reader to the location of the material.

Example One – Source with one author

Somers (2009) contends that the body “requires a constant supply of all essential nutrients and has developed a complex system for storing nutrients for later use” (**p. 18**).

OR

The body “requires a constant supply of all essential nutrients and has developed a complex system for storing nutrients for later use” (**Somers, 2009, p. 18**).

Example Two – Source with two to five authors

List all authors’ names in the order they appear in the source.

Wilson and Jenkins (2006) claim, “While more flattering representations of Blacks and Latinos have recently found their way into the marketplace, the same cannot be said for Asians and Native Americans” (**p. 33**).

OR

As one article pointed out, even though increased “flattering representations of Blacks and Latinos have recently found their way into the marketplace, the same cannot be said for Asians and Native Americans” (**Wilson & Jenkins, 2006, p. 33**).

Example Three – Source with six or more authors

List just the first author's last name and then "et al." which stand for "and others."

Opper et al. (2008) write that "when bulb seedlings appear, containers need to be moved to sunny places and watered regularly" (p. 115).

OR

Some researchers have discovered that "when bulb seedlings appear, containers need to be moved to sunny places and watered regularly" (**Opper et al., 2008, p. 115**).

Example Four – Article with association, business, educational, or government author

Use the agency's name as the author.

The United States Department of Labor (2004) discusses that whistle blowing, defined as "going public with potentially damaging information," can have adverse physical, security, and mental health effects (p. 26).

OR

Government officials believe that whistle blowing, defined as "going public with potentially damaging information," can have mental health effects (**United States Department of Labor, 2004, p. 26**).

Example Five – Article with no named author (person or organization)

Use the first few words of the source's title as it is listed on the References list.

"A Troubling Look" (2001) discusses the emergence of an increasing problem in this country, stating, "The elderly have become victims of con games and scams that often take away entire life savings (p. 29).

OR

The emergence of an increasing problem in this country has become apparent; researchers contend, "The elderly have become victims of con games and scams that often take away entire life savings (**"A Troubling Look," 2001, p. 29**).

Example Six – Two or more sources by the same author published in the same year

For two sources written by the same author and published in the same year, provide the author's last name and assign each source a letter of the alphabet like below. Include the corresponding letter with each source on the References list. Then provide the year of publication and end sentence with the page number.

Henderson (2009^a) writes, "Playing a television mother on *The Brady Bunch* all those years made me never want to have children of my own" (p. 16).

Furthermore, Henderson (2009^b) stated, "The idealized television families of the late 1960s and 1970's contrasted sharply with the families in *The Simpsons, Roseanne, and Modern Family*" (p. 18).

OR

One famous television actress writes, "Playing a television mother on *The Brady Bunch* all those years made me never want to have children of my own" (**Henderson, 2009^a, p. 16**).

As one "perfect" mother stated, "The idealized television families of the late 1960s and 1970's contrasted sharply with the families in *The Simpsons, Roseanne, and Modern Family*" (**Henderson, 2009^b, p. 18**).