1-1-2018

APA In-Text Citations for Print and Electronic Sources (Video and Slides)

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Recommended Citation
Gulick, Angela and Parkland College Center for Academic Success, "APA In-Text Citations for Print and Electronic Sources (Video and Slides)" (2018). APA (American Psychological Association) Documentation. 10.
https://spark.parkland.edu/cas_apa/10

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APA In-Text Citations for Print Sources

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June 2015
The Definition of APA Documentation

- APA documentation is a system for you to tell readers that you are borrowing information from some outside written, personal communication, or media source.

- An outside source can be any of the following:
  - written sources (print or electronic): books, magazines, newspapers, journals, pamphlets, handouts, website articles, and database articles
  - personal communication sources: personal or telephone interviews, email messages, and personal letters
  - media sources: films and television programs (both live and recorded), as well as music and other audio recordings
The Definition and Benefits of Citations

- A citation is a place in your paper that tells readers where you got your information. A citation is the *actual reference* in your paper. Citing is the *action* of providing this information. Citations help you in three different ways:

- **Citations give the original source credit for the information.** Ethically, you can’t borrow another’s research, scientific findings, work, or ideas and pass them off as your own. You need to be very clear when you are reporting the words or ideas or findings of another source. *Do you really want to take credit away from cute little kids like these??*
The Definition and Benefits of Citations

Citations show that you’ve done your homework. If you went to the trouble of researching your topic and finding out what the “big names” in your topic have to say, show off! Cite those sources. They will add to the credibility of your writing. *If you work this hard and you read this much, don’t you want a little bit of attention and credit?*
The Definition and Benefits of Citations

Citations help readers find your sources on their own. Sometimes, readers want to find your sources to do further reading. Telling readers where you got your information, both in the paper and on a References list, gives readers a “treasure map” to finding those sources out in the real world.

Source for image: starstore.com
The Definition of a Signal Phrase

In the olden days, court trumpeters would play a musical fanfare to alert the audience to the arrival of royalty. A signal phrase in writing does the same thing: it alerts the reader to the fact that you are announcing where you got your research.

Source for image: marksbands.com
The Definition of a Signal Phrase

A signal phrase is a way to cite your source so that it is very clear to readers where your borrowing begins and where it ends. Here are some examples of signal phrases:

- When investigating common injuries of miniature poodles, Jenkins (2011) discovered,....................... (p. 16).

Notice how the signal phrase shows where the source begins (Jenkins (2011) ) and where the source ends (p. 16). This strategy makes it very easy for your readers to distinguish your own ideas from your sources’ ideas.
Why We Recommend Using Signal Phrases

- The main benefit to a signal phrase is that it clearly establishes where your source **begins** and **ends**. For this reason, we recommend against putting the author, year, and page number at the very end of the source, such as this:
  - .................................................................(Jenkins, 2011, p. 16).

- Putting the (author, year, page number) information at the end of a source shows where the source **ends**, but it *doesn’t* show where the source **begins**. If you use the above strategy, you need to give your reader a clear indication as to where the source starts:
  - As one researcher discovered, ......................(Jenkins, 2011, p. 16).
Sample Citations for Various Sources

- You can select a link below to get information on a particular type of source. To get back to this page, select the symbol next to the slide’s title.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITING PRINT AND ELECTRONIC SOURCES</th>
<th>CITING PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Source with One to Five Authors</td>
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<td>• Source with Six or More Authors</td>
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<td>• Two or More Sources by the Same Author in the Same Year</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITING MEDIA SOURCES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Television Program (Live and Recorded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Film (Live and Recorded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Music and Other Audio Recording</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citing Print and Electronic Sources

- For a print or electronic source, provide these details each time you use that source throughout your paper:
  - author’s name. Sometimes, the author is a business, school, association, or government agency.
  - year of publication
  - page number(s) of summarized, paraphrased, or directly quoted information
A Special Note about Page Numbers

- For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, if available, 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.

- **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).

- **Our recommendation:** Ask your instructors what they want regarding page/paragraph numbers, as some instructors have different preferences.
Source with One to Five Authors

Signal Phrase for One Author

- **Author’s name in sentence:** Somer (2008) writes _________ (p. 18).
- **Author’s name in (parentheses):** Researchers have recently discovered _________ (Somer, 2008, pp. 95-96).

Signal Phrase for Group Author (Association, Government Office, Organization, Business)

- **Author’s name in sentence:** The United States Department of Labor (2010) argues ____ (p. 6).
- **Author’s name in (parentheses):** Government research on unemployment rates shows _________ (The United States Department of Labor, 2010, p. 3).

Signal Phrase for Two or Three Authors

- **Authors’ names in sentence:** Wilson, Berry, and Gutierrez (2009) claim _________ (para. 4).
- **Authors’ names in (parentheses):** Some authors claim _________ (Wilson, Berry, & Gutierrez, 2009, paras. 6-7).

- **Note:** Then names of two or three authors appear in the sentence, use “and” to separate them. When those names appear in parentheses, use “&” to separate them.
Source with Six or More Authors

When writing a signal phrase for an article/book with six or more authors, provide the name of the first author who was listed on the original source. Next, write the words “et al.” which stand for the words “and others.” Then provide the information you want to cite, and end the information by putting the page number in (parentheses).

- **Authors’ names in sentence**: Opper et al. (2008) write __________ (p. 111).

- **Authors’ names in (parentheses)**: One recent discovery showed __________ (Opper et al., 2008, pp. 115-116).

- **Note**: Since you are referring to Opper and others, your verb must match your plural subject.
  - Incorrect version: Opper et al. (2008) writes
  - Correct version: Opper et al. (2008) write
Source with No Named Author

For an article with no named author, use the article’s title and year. Then end by providing the page number.

- **Title in sentence**: “In the Deep Midwinter: A Troubling Look at the Elderly” (2001) asserts __________ (p. 18).

- **Title in (parentheses)**: Financial experts also discuss __________ (“In the Deep,” 2001, p. 29).

**Note**: If the article title is long, write it out in full the first time. Then, you can shorthand the article title by providing just the first few words either in the sentence or in the (parentheses) at the end of the sentence.
Two or More Sources by the Same Author in the Same Year

For two or more sources written by the same author and published in the same year, provide the author’s last name, year, and assign each source a letter of the alphabet: a, b, c. Include the letter with the source throughout the paper and on the References list. For example, pretend these three books were all written by author Suzanne Collins in 2009.

- Catching Fire = 2009a
  - Author’s name in sentence: Collins (2009a) writes _______ (p. 16).
  - Author’s name in (parentheses): Furthermore, experts predict _______ (Collins, 2009a, p. 18).

- Hunger Games = 2009b
  - Author’s name in sentence: According to Collins (2009b) ____________ (p. 16).
  - Author’s name in (parentheses): One researcher discovered ____________ (Collins, 2009b, p. 18).

- Mockingjay = 2009c
  - Author’s name in sentence: Collins (2009c) commented ____________ (p. 16).
  - Author’s name in (parentheses): As one study indicated ____________ (Collins, 2009c, p. 18).
If you have an article written by one person but another person is being directly quoted, put the name of the person being quoted in the sentence itself and put the author, year, and page number at the end of the citation.

In this example, the person being quoted is Luke Danes, the article’s actual author is Rory Gilmore, the article was written in 2011, and this direct quotation appeared on page 27 of the original article:

As Luke Danes, president of Small Town Diner Owners Association (STDOA) stated, ___________ (Gilmore, 2011, p. 27).
What To Do if You Still Have Questions

If you still have questions, please stop by the Writing Lab (D120). We are here to help. The librarians in the Parkland College Library are also here to provide assistance. Thank you for your time today. Good luck with all of your writing projects.