

Why use in-text citations?

Use in-text citations to credit your sources within the text of your research paper. Anyone reading your paper can match your brief, in-text citations to the complete references in your reference list.

There should be a corresponding citation in your reference list for each of your in-text citations.

What is the APA format for in-text citations?

When citing an entire work, include the last name of the author, and the date of publication. When referring to **one work by one author**, use the following format:

The Marriage-Go-Round (Cherlin, 2009) is about the conflicting values of individualism and marital commitment in American culture.

For undated sources, use the abbreviation n.d. in place of the year.

When the **author's name is already clear from the narrative of your paper**, include only the date within the parentheses:

Kovats-Bernat (2008) found that street children are active participants in Haitian society and culture.

When **quoting a source**, include the corresponding page number:

“For the children who live on them, Port-au-Prince streets are deeply personal and subjective spaces, as these children identify with the street as their home” (Kovats-Bernat, 2008, p. 36).

When **quoting a source where no page or paragraph numbers are present**, include the heading and the number of the first paragraph below the heading:

According to Heiner, “French Salons directly influenced the literary fairy tale by increasing the overall popularity of tales” (2007, France section, para. 2).

When citing a conversation, personal interview, email or other ephemeral source, use the name of the source, followed by *personal communication*, and the exact date:

(B. A. Guilfoyle, personal communication, May 25, 2010)

An exception to the rule: You do not need to include personal communications in the reference list.

The following are more examples of formatting for in-text citations:

A work by two authors:

Following formal performance evaluation procedures positively impacts subordinates' trust in managers (Hartmann & Slapničar, 2009).

A work by three, four, or five authors:

Research suggests that there is a correlation between a large, right amygdala and the hypersociability of individuals with Williams Syndrome (Martens, Wilson, Dudgeon, & Reutens, 2009).

If you cite the source again in your research, shorten it to the first author and add the abbreviation, *et al.*:

Individuals with Williams Syndrome reported using facial characteristics other than the eyes and mouth to determine the approachability of a person (Martens et al., 2009).

A work by six or more authors:

Always use the first author followed by *et al.*:

Research by Gandhi et al. (2008) indicated that prescribed-burning, fuel-reduction treatments increased the incidence of active ground beetles.

A work by an organization:

The first time you cite the source, use the full name of the organization and add the abbreviation in brackets:

The gap in life expectancy between American men and women is narrowing (National Center for Health Statistics [NCHS], 2007).

Abbreviate an organization only when the name is long, and the abbreviation is easily understood.

If the name of the organization is cumbersome, and its abbreviation is easily understood, use the abbreviation in subsequent citations:

Individuals aged 15-24 years have one of the highest motor vehicle-related death rates (NCHS, 2007).

When using a title (or part thereof) in an in-text citation, place quotation marks around an article or book chapter title; italicize a book title.

A source with no author

If no author is available, use the first few words of the title:

("Palau officially," 2006)

References

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