



# USING APA STYLE

## Using In-Text Citations

This document was compiled using the APA Publication Manual sixth edition. For further information, please refer to Chapter 6 (169-192) of the handbook.

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An in-text citation is a brief reference to the source of other writers' words or ideas in your essay's text. This reference is meant to help the reader locate the corresponding bibliographic entry in the References section of your work.

### **SINGLE AUTHOR – 174**

- APA style uses the author-date method of citation. The author's last name and the year of publication are inserted into the text to identify the source.
- A single-author can be cited in one of two ways:

The author's name and the year of publication can be inserted directly into the sentence:

Johnson (2006) analyzed the retraction of angles.

The author's name and the year of publication can be placed in a citation at the end of the sentence:

In an important recent study, researchers discovered a new light particle (Johnson, 2006).

- The year of publication always follows the author's name.
- After you refer to a study in a paragraph, you do not need to include the year in subsequent citations in that paragraph so long as the study cannot be confused with other studies. However, the year must be included once you begin a new paragraph.

### **MULTIPLE AUTHORS – 175**

- When a work you are citing has two authors, both authors should always be cited each time you refer to the study.
- Just like the single-author citation, multiple-author citations can either occur within the text of the sentence or at the end:

In the text of the sentence:

Johnson and Maxwell (2006) analyzed the retraction of angles.

At the end of the sentence:

In an important recent study, researchers discovered a new light particle (Johnson and Maxwell, 2006).

- In a study with 3-5 authors, you only need to include all of their names the first time you refer to their work. All subsequent citations should use only the last name of the first author followed by "et al." and the year of publication.

The first citation:

Johnson, Maxwell, Lincoln, and Nebraska (2006) analyzed the retraction of angles.

All subsequent citations:

Johnson et al. (2006) discovered that angles retract to a significant degree in cold environments.

- For every citation with 6 or more authors, include only the first author's surname followed by "et al." and the year of publication.

#### **NO IDENTIFIABLE AUTHOR – 176**

- If your source lacks an identifiable author, use a shortened version of the work's title instead of the author's name.

For example:

In an important study, researchers discovered a new light particle ("Particle Researchers," 2006).

#### **CITING TWO WORKS IN THE SAME PARENTHESES – 178**

- When you want to cite more than one work in the same parentheses, the entries should be presented in the order they appear in your reference list.
- Two or more works by different authors cited within the same parentheses should be listed in alphabetical order by the first author's last name. Separate the citations with semicolons.

Two works by the same author:

Past research has shown that students learn more effectively when they are able to interact with the learning material (Abel, 2001, 2004).

Two works by different authors:

Past research has shown that students learn more effectively when they are able to interact with the learning material (Abel, 2001; Johnson & Myers, 2004).

#### **CITING SPECIFIC PARTS OF A SOURCE – 170-173, 179**

- When citing a specific aspect of a source, you must reference the page, chapter, figure, table, or equation in the text.
- You must always include page numbers with quotations.

Quotation with author in the text of the sentence:

When Johnson (2003) examined retention rates on university campuses, he found that "students from abusive environments have a much higher probability of dropping out before the end of their freshman year" (p. 345).

Quotation in parenthesis at the end of the sentence:

Recent studies indicate that "students from abusive environments have a much higher probability of dropping out before the end of their freshman year" (Johnson, 2003, p. 345).

Quotation that spans across multiple pages:

When Johnson (2003) examined retention rates on university campuses, he found that "students from abusive environments have a much higher probability of dropping out before the end of their freshman year" (pp. 345-346).

- If you are citing an electronic source without pagination, you should refer to paragraph numbers if they are visible.

For example:

When Johnson (2003) examined retention rates on university campuses, he found that "students from abusive environments have a much higher probability of dropping out before the end of their freshman year" (para. 4).