The American Psychological Association (APA) publishes a citation style used primarily in Behavioral and Social Science disciplines for documenting sources in a text.

**Why do we cite?**
- To give credit to others for their ideas, words, and images
- To lend credibility to our arguments
- To connect our ideas to other writers’ ideas in our field
- To provide readers with sources that they can use for their own projects

**When do we cite?**
- When we quote other writers’ words
- When we paraphrase (i.e., using our own words to explain someone else’s ideas)
- When we use another writers’ tables, graphs, or images

**What do I do if the information I need is not contained in this packet?**
- Work with a Writing Center consultant
- Check the *APA Handbook, 6th Edition*
- Visit the *Purdue OWL* website

**Where in the paper do I put my citations?**
- You need to cite your sources both inside of your text and in a References page located at the end of your paper.
In-text Citation

One Author (author’s name is not given in the sentence)
When you quote or paraphrase, include the author’s name, the year of the publication, and the page number where the quote/paraphrase appears in the original text. This information is placed in parentheses.

- One of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (Doe, 2011, p. 23).
- One of the paradoxes of democracy is that each person can only be free if the larger culture sets up rules to protect that liberty (Doe, 2011, p. 23).

One Author (author’s name given in the sentence)
If you write the author’s name before the quotation or paraphrase, you only need to write the page number in parentheses.

- According to Doe (2011), one of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (p. 23).

Two Authors
If a work has two authors, cite both names every time you cite the source.

- (Doe & Smith, 1982, p. 23)

Three, Four, or Five Authors
If a work has three or more authors, give all names the first time you cite and just the first name followed by “et al.” in all subsequent citations.

- (Doe, Smith, Williams, & Jones, 1982, p. 23)
- (Doe et al., 1982, p. 23)

Six or More Authors
If a work has six or more authors, always follow the first name with “et al.”

- (Doe et al., 1982, p. 23)

Multiple Texts by the Same Author
Add the year of each publication. If you are citing more than one work by the same author published within the same year, add suffixes after the year (a,b,c):

- (Doe, 1982a, 1982b, 2011)

No Author Listed
Give the title of the work, shortened or in full. Note that using a source with “no author” can raise a credibility issue.

- (“Green Day,” 2007)

Electronic and Other Non-print Sources without Page Numbers
Try to give the section or paragraph number.

- (Doe, 2011, para. 3)

Quoting from Another Source

- John Johnson wrote that individual freedom “should not take precedence over social welfare” (as cited in Doe, 2011, p. 4).
References Entries

PRINT

Book, One Author
Author's last name, first initial. (Year of publication). Title of book. Place of Publication: Publisher.


Book Chapter, One Author with Editor
Pemberton, M. A. (2003). The writing lab newsletter as history: Tracing the growth of a scholarly community. In M. A. Pemberton & J. Kinkead (Eds.), The center will hold: Critical perspectives on writing center scholarship (pp. 21-40). Logan, UT: Utah State UP.

ELECTRONIC

Journal Article, One Author
Author’s last name, first initial. (Year of publication). Title of article. Title of journal, Volume number(Issue number), Inclusive pages. doi#.


Article on Online Magazine
Author, A. A. (Year, Month of Publication). Title of work. Name of Magazine, Volume# (Issue#). URL


NOTE about the URL: Provide the home page URL when the article can be found easily by searching the host site. If the article is difficult to locate on its host site, include the full URL.

Article on Websites or in Web Magazines with No Author Listed
Title of work. (Year of publication). Retrieval date, URL.


NOTE about retrieval dates: Only provide the retrieval date for sources that "may change over time" (APA, 2010, p. 192).
References


