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, 7th Edition*

**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.
APA provides two options for citing sources in text: narrative style and parenthetical style. Both require the author name(s) and date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>Narrative example</th>
<th>Parenthetical example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>One or two authors:</strong></td>
<td>Oswal (2015) recommends building access into online course design at the beginning of the process.</td>
<td>Online course designers should start the development process with access in mind (Oswal, 2015).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include the author or authors name(s) and the year of the publication.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Three or more authors:</strong></td>
<td>Brizee et al. (2009) remind educational website developers that users are the ultimate authority in assessing the effectiveness of a learning object, tool, or lesson.</td>
<td>Users, in this case students, are the ultimate authority in assessing the effectiveness of an online object, tool, or lesson (Brizee et al., 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the last name of the first author, follow with “et al.” and the year.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization as author:</strong></td>
<td>The Association of Departments of English (ADE, 2011) found that the four most common required courses for MA in English degrees nationally are research methods, literary theory, American literature, and British literature.</td>
<td>The four most common required courses for the MA in English degree nationally are research methods, literary theory, American literature, and British literature (Association of Departments of English [ADE], 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write out the organization’s full name the first time it is used and include the acronym. Use the acronym for any subsequent uses of the source.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No author listed:</strong></td>
<td>Websites such as “#Alt-academy” (2011) have started discussions about alternative career paths for graduate students in humanities.</td>
<td>A starting place to discuss alternatives to tenure-track employment is literature about “alternate academic” careers (e.g. “#Alt-academy,” 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the title, or shortened title, of the work in place of author name. Note that using sources with no author can raise credibility issues.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citing information found in another source:</strong></td>
<td>Wright’s report (as cited in Bragdon, 2013) emphasized the importance of increased hydration in the prevention of obesity.</td>
<td>Increasing hydration is important in preventing obesity (Wright, as cited in Bragdon, 2013).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include the source you have, preceded by “as cited in.” Whenever possible, you should find the original source and cite it directly.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Direct quotation or paraphrase:</strong></td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>Mentorship is not only an individual’s responsibility because “ethical mentorship requires ongoing institutional and interpersonal efforts” (CCCC, 2019, para. 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow the appropriate guidelines above and indicate the location in the text, often a page number, where the words are located.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References Entries

Periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and blogs)

Author, A. A. (year or date). Title of article. Title of periodical, volume number (issue number), page numbers. https://doi.org/xx or https:/xx

Examples


Books and Reference Works (authored books, edited books, anthologies, religious and classical works)

Author, A. A. (year). Title of book. Publisher name. https://doi.org/xx or https:/xx

Examples


Edited Book Chapters and Entries in Reference Works

Author, A. A. (year). Title of chapter. In E.E. Editor (Ed.), Title of book (pages). Publisher Name. https://doi.org/xx or https:/xx

Example

Webpages and Websites

Author A. A. (date). Title of work. Site name. https:/xx or Retrieved date, from https:/xx

Examples


• When the author and site name are the same, omit site name.
References


