APA Citing Sources (In-Text Citations) 6th ed.

What needs to be cited?

Cite everything that is not your original idea. The only exception is if something considered “common knowledge”. Plagiarism is when you do not give proper credit and it can have serious consequences.

How to cite In-Text?

- **Always include the author’s last name and the date.** You can have this information as a parenthetical notation at the end of the sentence as in, (Smith, 2017), or as a signal phrase in your paper like, According to Smith (2017), …
- Quotations require the page numbers in your citation (Smith, 2017, p. 23)
- If you do not have a page number, count paragraphs (Smith, 2017, para. 5)
- If you do not have a date, use n.d. for No Date. (Smith, n.d., para. 8)
- If you have two authors, use the & sign between them in a parenthetical notation, but the word “and” in a signal phrase (see below)
- If you have three, four, or five authors, you list them all the 1st time you cite them. Every additional time, list the first author and then “et al.” (see below)
- If you have six or more authors, only list the first author and use “et al.” (see below)
- If you don’t have an author, use the title of the document. Italics for books and quotation marks for articles or websites (see below)

Examples of Quotations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Author with date</th>
<th>(Smith, 2017, p. 13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Author with no date</td>
<td>(Smith, n.d., p.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Authors –parenthetical</td>
<td>(Smith &amp; Jones, 2017, p. 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Authors –signal phrase</td>
<td>According to Smith and Jones (2017), “…” (p. 20).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 Authors, 1st use in paper</td>
<td>(Smith, Jones, Tyler, Noble, &amp; Harkness, 2017, p. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 Authors additional use</td>
<td>(Smith et al., 2017, p. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six or more authors-parenthetical</td>
<td>(Smith et al., 2017, p. 32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six or more authors-signal phrase</td>
<td>Smith et al. (2017) discovered that “…” (p. 62).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with no author</td>
<td>(Tea lovers anonymous, 2010, p. 112)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article or website with no author</td>
<td>(“Best places to eat”, 2016, para. 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source within a Source (or when quoting something already quoted in the article)

If the author you read is quoting someone else, you cite the author you read in your paper and use a signal phrase to credit the original author.

**Example:** Where Nobel is what you read and Smith is who actually said it.

- **In-text:** Smith (as cited in Noble, 2014) said, “books are the best weapons in the world” (p. 2).
When do I Quote and when do I Paraphrase?

- **Quotations**—use someone’s words. Put “quotation marks” around the part of the text you used and put the correct in-text citation, including page or paragraph number.
- **Paraphrase**—summing up someone’s ideas. It does not require page or paragraph numbers.*

*Note: A paraphrase is NOT changing some words in an author’s sentence. A paraphrase is NOT trying to come up with words that mean the same thing but “in your own words.” A paraphrase is for when you want to sum up content you read without using the words or sentence structure of the original.

Examples:

Smith (2017) said, “Look at the sky. It's not dark and black and without character. The black is in fact deep blue” (p. 6).

Smith (2017) ponders the depth of colors of the night sky with the travelers before leaving.

When do I use a Block Quotation?

Long quotations (40 or more words) go in a block. Block quotations are indented, do not use quotation marks, and the end punctuation comes before the parenthetical notation. Example:

We need knowledge, and not just information, in this world filled with unrelenting content. Knowledge is defined as:

Both the facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education, including the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject, and also the ability to use those facts, information, and skills in a useful and clever manner. (Smith, 2016, p. 45)

This description of knowledge is important to our understanding of…

What to do with sources with the same author & date?

1. List the entries alphabetically by the title of the article on your reference page.
2. Give each reference a lower case letter, in order, with the date.
3. Make sure both your in-text and your reference page letters match.

In-Text Example: (Henry Ford College, 2017b, para. 3)

Reference Page Example: