

APA In-Text Citations



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According to APA format, any time you pull information from an outside source into your writing, you must follow this information with an in-text parenthetical citation. The **in-text citation** accomplishes two things:

- Provides some brief information about the source (author and publication year) and the location of the cited information within the source (page number)
- Directs the reader to the full citation for the source that appears on the reference page

Sample In-Text Citation and Reference Page Entry

In-text citation

Although most students say that they prefer face-to-face classes, “there are individuals who benefit from learning in an online environment” (Kain, 2005, p. 22).

Reference page citation

Kain, L.R. Online learning in the 21st century. (2005) *Journal of Digital Learning*, 12(3), 220-241.
doi: 10.1453/344764500013888700

When to Use an In-Text Citation

- In text citations are required for any material taken from the source, whether it is quoted, summarized, or paraphrased.
- If you refer to a work in general, only author and year are required.
- If you summarize or paraphrase from the source, use of page numbers is encouraged but not required.
- If you quote from a source, page numbers are required.
- Note that that page number always appears inside parentheses after the cited material. Depending on how you set the sentence up, the author’s last name and year of publication may be included in the parentheses with the page number, or they may be stated in the body of the sentence before the citation.

Ways to Cite a Source in the Text

Author not named in sentence

Although most students say that they prefer face-to-face classes, “there are individuals who benefit from learning in an online environment” (Kain, 2005, p. 22).

Author named in sentence

Kain (2005) argues that “there are individuals who benefit from learning in an online environment” (p. 22).

Format of In-Text Citations

Type of citation	First citation in text	Subsequent citations in text	Parenthetical format, first citation in text	Parenthetical format, subsequent citations in text
One work by one author	Walker (2007)	Walker (2007)	(Walker, 2007)	(Walker, 2007)
One work by two authors	Walker and Allen (2004)	Walker and Allen (2004)	(Walker & Allen, 2004)	(Walker & Allen, 2004)
One work by three authors	Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (1999)	Bradley et al. (1999)	(Bradley, Ramirez, & Soo, 1999)	(Bradley et al., 1999)
One work by four authors	Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, and Walsh (2006)	Bradley et al. (2006)	(Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, & Walsh, 2006)	(Bradley et al., 2006)
One work by five authors	Walker, Allen, Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (2008)	Walker et al. (2008)	(Walker, Allen, Bradley, Ramirez, & Soo, 2008)	(Walker et al., 2009)
One work by six or more authors	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	(Wasserstein et al., 2005)	(Wasserstein et al., 2005)
Groups (readily identified through abbreviation) as authors	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2003)	NIMH (2003)	(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2003)	(NIMH, 2003)
Groups (no abbreviation) as authors	University of Pittsburgh (2005)	University of Pittsburgh (2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)

Note. Adapted from “Table 6.1. Basic Citation Styles” by American Psychological Association, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, p. 117.

In-Text Citation Examples

One work by one author

Walker (2007) noted....

...was noted (Walker, 2007).

One work by multiple authors

Walker and Allen (2004) noted....

...was noted (Walker & Allen, 2004).

Authors with the same surname

Include the authors' first initials before their last names.

J. Walker (2008) and S. Walker (2009) noted....

Works with no identified author

If a work has no identified author, cite in text the first few words of the reference page entry, usually the title of the source, along with the year.

....was noted ("Writing Online," 2017).

Two or more works within the same parentheses

List multiple sources within a single parenthetical citation by alphabetical order.

Several studies have shown...(Barnes, 2005; Cueva, 2010; Silvia, 2005).

Secondary sources

Only use a secondary source if the original is out of print or unavailable through usual sources.

Smith believed....(as cited in Swainy, 2005)

Personal communications

...was noted (L. H. Huang, personal communication, 2014).