

# Wayland Writing Center

## APA In-Text Citations

### Specific Guidelines

A complete APA in-text citation includes the author's last name, year of publication, and page number or range where the information is located, and it looks like this: (Author, year, p.#).

As with any documentation style, there are a variety of ways to correctly present quotes and in-text citations. This helps to provide varied sentence structure and to avoid dull writing.

Here are some examples:

- “Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water” (Jones, 2000, p.1).
- According to Jones (2000), Jack and Jill had only gone to secure a water supply (p. 1).
- Jones (2000) wrote that “Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water” (p. 1).

When using signal phrases, use past tense or present perfect tense.

For example: “Kelvin (2003) found that the...” OR “Kelvin (2003) has found that the...”

**In-text citations**



Author's last  
name



Date of  
publication



Page number

### Examples

#### Citing Two Works by the Same Author Published in the Same Year:

When citing two sources by the same author in the same year, use lower-case letters (a, b, c) with the year to differentiate the entries in the reference list. Also, use the same lower-case letters with the year in the in-text citation.

- As stated by Smith (2012a), the brain becomes more active when exposed to light, explaining why artificial light, like television, can affect sleep (p. 254).
- Smith (2012b) also conceded that “when a person loses sleep, the body keeps track and creates a ‘sleep deficit’” (p. 670).

### Citing a Work by Two Authors:

Both authors' names appear in parentheses or in the signal phrase each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between authors' names within the text. However, you should use the ampersand (&) between the names in parentheses.

- As Zhang and Liu (2012) stated, "This article aims to contribute to the existing literature in two main aspects" (p. 1490).
- "This article aims to contribute to the existing literature in two main aspects" (Zhang & Liu, 2012, p.1490).

### Citing a Work by Three to Five Authors:

The first time you cite the source, you must list all the authors in the signal phrase or in parentheses. The word "and" appears between the authors' names within the text, and the ampersand (&) appears in the parentheses.

- Morriss, Bogart, Meiners, and Dorchak (2011) conceded that "diversification makes sense only if the new sources of energy are cost-effective and reliable" (p. 19).

When subsequently citing the same work, use only the first author's last name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase or in parentheses. Also, if it is the first time within a paragraph to mention that particular reference, include the year of publication in parentheses after "et al." You may omit the year from the reference if it is repeated within that same paragraph.

- Morriss et al. (2011) also wrote, "The best way to encourage development of new technologies is not for the government to select some favored ones and subsidize them (p.19).

### Citing a Work by Six or More Authors:

The first author's last name will appear followed by "et al." in both the signal phrase and the parentheses.

- Ammari et al. (2014) wrote that "both the preserved and deteriorated patterns also exist in the general population" (p. 355).
- As previously noted, "both the preserved and deteriorated patterns also exist in the general population" (Ammari et al., 2014, p. 355).

### Citing a Work with No Author:

If a source does not list its author, you may use the entire source title in the signal phrase or shorten the title and cite it in the parenthetical reference. Titles of books and reports will be italicized. Titles of articles, chapters, and web pages will appear in quotation marks.

- “Federal Budget 101” (n.d.) stated that “There is a flow-through of money from the federal government to the states, into counties and right into your own town” (p. 1).

### Citing a Work with No Page Numbers:

When no page numbers are present, you should provide some alternative information about the location of the reference. In cases where the source’s paragraphs are numbered, use the abbreviation “para.” and the paragraph number in the citation. In sources where the paragraphs are not numbered, but the document contains headings, you may include the appropriate heading title within that section.

- According to Javadpour (2013), “Major depression was the second most common cause of the late-onset psychosis in our study” (para. 6).
- As Crystal et al. (2002) indicated, “A key issue to watch going forward is the extent to which foreign and private domestic banks rely on different funding sources” (Evidence of Behavioral Differences section, para. 5).

### Citing an Indirect Source:

An indirect source is an excerpt from another book or article cited within the book or article you are using. In the event that you need to use information that falls under this category, name the *original source* in the signal phrase. Then you will list the secondary source in your reference list and include the secondary source in your parenthetical reference.

- Dewey “developed a theory in which he identified five different stages of the reflective process” (as cited in Hatcher & Bringle, 1997, p. 155).

### Citing a Work with an Organization as the Author:

When the author is an organization or a government agency, fully name the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source. If you decide to abbreviate thereafter, keep in mind that your abbreviation must make logical sense to the reader and allow them to locate the entry in the reference list with ease.

- According to the American Educational Research Association (1992) [hereafter referred to as the AERA], “In 1982, the average number of Carnegie units... earned in agriculture by all high school students in the United States was 0.2” (p. 61).

#### Citing and Formatting a Block Quote:

As with other documentation styles, APA requires special formatting for block quotes, which are defined as quotes that exceed forty words. Indent these quotes a half-inch from the left margin and maintain double spacing. Citations should appear *after* the closing punctuation.

Here is an example:

Sebastien Guex (2000), an assistant professor at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, discusses the complexities of the Swiss banking system in his article, “The Origins of the Swiss Banking Secrecy Law and Its Repercussions for Swiss Federal Policy”:

In particular, the existing studies do not analyze banking secrecy as a strategy that is consistent with the peculiar conditions of the Swiss financial center and, moreover, one that was devised to favor the conditions for its expansion. True, there exists an abundant literature on the topic, but it comprises legal works, on the one hand, and journalistic studies, on the other. (p. 238)