APA Citations

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Citations: General Overview

- You must use citations every time you choose to integrate another person's thoughts or ideas into your paper (direct quotations, paraphrases, and within summaries.)

- There are two types of citations: in-text and end-text.

- In-text citations appear *within* the body of your paper and are known as parenthetical citations.

- End-text citations appear *at the end* of your paper in the form of a "References" page (in APA style).

When to Cite

- All of your papers should include both parenthetical citations and a references page. Failure to properly credit the outside sources you use is considered plagiarism, and this will result in a non-passing grade on your essay, as well as other related penalties.

You must cite:

- Whenever you use quotations, paraphrases, and within summaries

- Whenever you use an idea that someone else has already expressed

- Whenever you make specific reference to the work of another

- Whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas

In-Text Parenthetical Citations

- In APA style, source material is cited using a system that emphasizes the author, date of publication, and the page number (when available) in its in-text citations.

- Let's pretend I want to use a direct quote in my paper. The citation would look as follows:

- Example: The author says, "his/her exact words" (author's last name, year of publication, page number).

Examples of In-Text Citations

- **Direct quotation as part of your own sentence:** In most English 102 courses, "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (Twain, 2011, p. 2).

- **Direct quotation with the author's last name in the text of your paper:**

- In his introduction, Twain states that "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (2011, p. 2).

- In his introduction, Twain (2011) states that "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (p. 2).

Sample Variations of In-Text Citations

- **Source with no author given:** If no author is given for a source from which you took information, place a shortened title of the source, followed by the year of publication and page number(s) in the parentheses.

- Example: According to one source, "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (*Joy of English 102*, 2011, p. 2).

- **Quoting continuing pages:** Twain states that "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (2011, pp. 2-3).
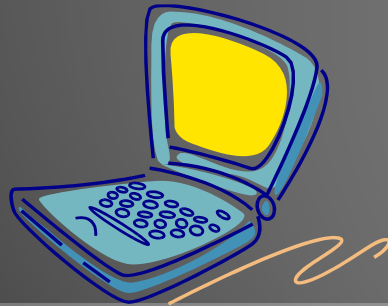
- **Source with two authors:** When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the source is cited in the text:

- Twain and Smith state that "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (2011, p. 2).

- The authors state that "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (Twain & Smith, 2011, p. 2).

In-Text Citations for Online Sources

- When accessing a source online, you include the author's name and date of publication/last update of the source. The page number drops out of the parenthetical citation. Sometimes you will come across a source that was originally published in print and then appeared online. Since you accessed the source online, you will still leave out the page number in the parenthetical citation.

- Example: In most English 102 courses, "students learn how to cite and document their sources through a variety of methods including group and individual tasks" (Twain, 2011).

APA References Page
(End-Text Citations)

- A references page is a list of all of the sources you used while writing your paper (i.e. books, journals, online journals, anthologies, newspaper articles, movies, YouTube, etc.)

- While in-text citations give information of where you chose your quote or paraphrase from, end-text citations give information about the source itself.

- Since various sources (i.e. e-books, magazines, periodicals, etc.) are published in different formats, each of the entries on your references page will look different. (see handout)

Helpful Hints about Citations

- When you are in doubt, you should cite. This is one of those cases where, as the old saying goes, it's better to be safe than sorry. If you have questions about citing or formatting, ask your professor or a Writing Center tutor for help.

- One last thing: keep a working bibliography (list of references), and include parenthetical citations from the time you begin writing your first draft. Taking care of this early on will prevent you from having to do unnecessary searches through books and articles later.

Any Questions?