APA Style

APA In-Text Citing
Chapter 6 Crediting Sources

When and how do I cite a source within the text?

You need to document your source whenever you use either an idea that you paraphrase or a direct quote. In order to do this, directly after you write the idea or quote, briefly indicate what source you used by listing the author’s last name and publication year where you found the idea (Wilcox, 2008). If you cited more than one work by that author, also include a shortened version of the title (Wilcox, Shifting Roles, 2008). A direct quote requires page information (Wilcox, 2008, p. 10). For citing unpaginated, electronic sources, APA suggests identifying the paragraph, heading, or short title, for example: “(Discussion section, para.1)” (APA, 2010, p. 172).

Other examples of citing in text

The exact nature of your parenthetical reference will depend in (1) how your text’s sentence reads, and (2) the nature of your source and its citation. The following examples are taken from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.

1. How the sentence reads.

   If your sentence includes the name of your source, your parenthetical reference may need only a publication year. The source is already identified
   Ex.: Kessler (2003) found that among epidemiological samples [APA, p. 174]

   If your sentence contains the author name and year of your source, a parenthetical may be unnecessary. Information already cited in text need not be repeated in the parenthetical.
   Ex: In 2003 Kessler found that among

   If not referenced in the text, the source must be identified in the parenthetical.
   Ex.: Early onset results in a more persistent and severe course (Kessler, 2003). [APA, p. 174]

2. Nature of source and its citation

   If your source has no author or otherwise must start with the title, begin your parenthetical reference with a few title words.
   Ex.: on free care ("Study Finds," 2007) [Quotation marks indicate this is an article, chapter, or web page (APA, p. 176).]

   Ex.: the book College Bound Seniors (2008) [Italics indicate this is a book, journal, brochure or report (APA, p. 176).]

Additional Information

1. APA Manual, Secs. 6.11-6.21 for additional explanation and examples. NB: Table 6.1, Basic Citation Styles on p. 177.


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