

APA Format: Quoting

Quoting means using someone else’s words to explain what you are trying to convey. Research papers tend to be found in APA Format and, so, using any source means you should be giving someone credit for using their research for your own. APA Formatting tackles quoting differently than other formats.

Narrative & Parenthetical Citations (pp. 262-263)

Narrative Citations: This form of citation should occur when the name of the author is stated in a signal phrase during a sentence. The year, in parenthesis, should be placed next to the author name. A page number (listed as “p.” for 1 page or “pp.” for multiple pages) is added at the end of the sentence.

Example: It was said best when Poovey (1984) stated, “Wollstonecraft’s fundamental insight in Maria concerns the way in which female sexuality is defined or interpreted—and, by extension, controlled—by bourgeois institutions” (p. 100).

Parenthetical Citations: When not using a signal phrase, you place the author information and date of publication towards the end of a sentence along with the page number(s).

Example: A significant view readers gain from Wollstonecraft’s Maria is that “female sexuality is defined or interpreted—and, by extension, controlled—by bourgeois institutions” (Poovey, 1984, p. 100).

You also use Parenthetical Citations when paraphrasing to be able to locate the original text, though it is not always necessary.

Paraphrasing means writing information from a source in your own words and can look a little like:

Example: Early onset results in a more persistent and severe course (Kessler, 2003).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When should I use citations?

A: You should cite a source every time you use a quote that is directly taken from an outside source and every time you paraphrase material or information that is not your original work.

Q: How many quotes should I use? Do I have to cite every sentence?

A: For most papers, cite one or two of the more representative sources for each key source. If the source and topic have not changed, you do not have to include the citation in every sentence. Instead, cite the source in the first sentence and do not repeat as long as the source remains clear and unchanged.

Paraphrasing (p. 269)

Most published authors paraphrase their sources rather than directly quoting them, so students are encouraged to do the same thing. To paraphrase, use a professional tone when describing a concept, idea, or finding in your own words. Make sure to cite the work you paraphrase in the text.

If you have a long paraphrase, make sure to cite the work being paraphrased on first mention, then it won't be necessary to repeat the citation as long as the context of the writing makes it clear that the same work is being paraphrased.

Example of paraphrasing:

Koehler (2016) experimentally examined how journalistic coverage influences public perception of the level of agreement among experts. Koehler provided participants with quotations from real reviews for movies that critics either loved or loathed. He found that participants better appreciated the level of expert consensus for highly rated movies when only positive reviews were provided, even when the proportion of positive to negative reviews was indicated. These findings, in combination with similar research, demonstrate that providing evidence for both sides when most experts agree may lead to a false sense of balance (Koehler, 2016; Reginald, 2015).

Length of Sources (pp. 272-273)

Short Quotations: A short quotation is one fewer than forty words. Examples found on the next page.

Long Quotations (Block Quotations): These are quotations of forty or more words and are introduced with an informative sentence followed by a colon. After, on the next line, indent half an inch (one tab or 5 spaces), and write the quote you are using.

Continue using double-space, but do not use quotation marks. Place any end punctuation before the parenthetical citation.

Example of a long/block quotation:

Purcell (1997) contradicted this view:

Co-presence does not ensure intimate interaction among all group members. Consider large-scale social gathering in which hundreds or thousands of people gather in a location to perform a ritual or celebrate an event. In these instances, participants are able to see the visible manifestation of the group, the physical gathering, yet their ability to make direct, intimate connections with those around them is limited by the sheer magnitude of the assembly. (pp. 111-112)

Thus, explaining that...

Types of Citation Scenarios

Citation with ONE author (p. 266): For a work with one author, include the name in every citation.

Example: Kristi Williams (2003) stated, “as women’s workforce participation and relative contributions to household income increase, so does their power within the relationship” (p. 471).

Citation with TWO authors (p. 266): For a work with two authors, cite both names every time you use the source in text.

Example: Paxton and Davies (2003) asserted that “a sense of belonging is a key element in an individual’s categorical identity” (p. 35).

Citation with THREE or more authors (p. 266): Include the name of only the first author plus “et al.” in the first citation and every citation after that unless doing so would create ambiguity.

Example: “Adipose tissue and breast milk,” Paumgarteen et al. (2000) stated, has been “the preferred matrices to evaluate human background contamination” (p. 293).

Citation with a GROUP author (p. 266): When first citing in text, include the name of the group in the signal phrase as well as the abbreviation in parenthesis. When first cited parenthetically, include both the full name and the abbreviation [in brackets] within the parenthesis. Only use the abbreviation after for both cases.

Example: According to the National Institute of Health (NIH, 2006), “Of these volunteers, 59 received the PfSPZ Vaccine” (para. 4).

Example: The most recent research has shown that opioids are not effective and may actually worsen chronic pain (National Institute for Drug Abuse [NIDA], 2016).

Citation with NO author (p. 264): Cite the first few words of the source, usually the title. Format the title as necessary, as in use italics for big works (i.e. books and journals) and use quotation marks for minor works (i.e. chapters and articles) (p. 291).

Example: Since Mary Wollstonecraft’s feminist views were first published, “books like Maria Edgeworth’s *Belinda*, Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*, and Charlotte Dacre’s *Zofloya* have been criticized from a feminist perspective” (“Feminism,” 1985, p. 35).

Citation with NO date (p. 262): For a work with no date, write in “n.d.” (which means “no date”) in parentheses. Put a period after the “n” and “d” with no space between the letters.

Example: The Canadian Medical Association argued there is no clear evidence the medication is effective (n.d., p. 8).

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Citation with NO page numbers (p. 273-274): To directly quote from written material that may not contain page numbers (e.g. webpages and websites, some ebooks), provide readers with another way of locating the quoted passage, such as a heading/section name, chapter number, a paragraph number, or a timestamp for audiovisual works.

Example: For people with osteoarthritis, “painful joints should be moved through a full range of motion every day to maintain flexibility and to show deterioration of cartilage” (Gecht-Silver & Duncombe, 2015, Osteoarthritis section).

Example: People planning for retirement need more than just money—they also “need to stockpile their emotional reserves” to ensure adequate support from family and friends (Chamberlin, 2014, para. 1).

Example: People make “sweeping interferences and judgements from body language” (Cuddy, 2012, 2:12).

Citation of an INDIRECT SOURCE (p. 258): Indirect sources are sources that are quoted or cited in a source you’ve read. Include the author of the indirect source in a signal phrase and cite your source as usual preceded by the words “as cited in”. If the year of publication of the source being cited is not available, then omit it.

Example: Papke confirmed that “human background contamination has declined in Germany and in other Western European countries during the past decade” (as cited in Paumgarten et al., 1999, p. 293).

Example: It has been confirmed that “human background contamination has declined in Germany and in other Western European countries during the past decade” (Papke, as cited in Paumgarten et al., 1999).

Citing Web Sources (p. 264): Cite these as you would any source. You can use the above examples as reference. Web sources don’t always have page numbers, so refer to our No Page Number examples as well as the appropriate number of authors to create your citation.

Example: Atkinson (2011) found that children who spent at least 4 hours a day engaged in online activities in an academic environment were less likely to want to play videogames or watch TV after school.

Translated, Reprinted, Republished, and Reissued dates (p. 265): Include 2 dates in the in-text citation: the year of publication of the original work and the year of publication of the translated, reprint, republication, or reissue. Separate the years with a slash (“/”) with the earlier year first.

Example: As Freud continues, “One of the sources from which dreams draw material for reproduction – material of which some part is not recalled or utilized in our waking thoughts – is to be found in childhood” (1900/1953, p. 7).

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Citing Multiple Works (p. 263): Place the citations in alphabetical order and separate them with semicolons (“;”).

Example: Several studies have identified a positive correlation between medication and stress reduction (Adams et al., 2019; Shumway & Shulman, 2015; Westinghouse, 2017).

Citing Plays (p. 263): For plays, cite the act, scene, and line(s).

Example: In *Much Ado About Nothing*, Don John said, “In the meantime / let me be that I am and seek not to alter me” (Shakespeare, 1623/1995, I.3.36-37).

Citing Sacred or classical text (p. 264): For these works, identify the text, publication date(s), and the relevant part (i.e. book or chapter, verse, line)

Example: Peace activists have long cited the biblical prophet’s vision of a world without war: “And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (*Holy Bible Revised Standard Edition*, 1952/2004, Isaiah 2:4).

Special Cases: Personal Communications (p. 260) and Quotes from Research Participants (p.278)

Personal Communications will only be cited in-text or parenthetically. No reference list entry is required.

These include emails, text messages, online chats, personal interviews, memos, telephone conversations, etc.

Example: J. Ramos (personal communication, October 12, 2014) stated that “students don’t take advantage of campus resources because of a lack of information.”

Note: Do not use a personal communication citation for quotes from participants whom you interviewed as part of your own original research. Instead, state in the text that quotations are from participants and always abide by confidentiality agreements.

Example: Participant “Julia,” a 32-year-old woman from California, described her experiences as a new mother as “simultaneously the best and hardest time of my life.”

Reference

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2021). *A Pocket Style Manual* (9th edition). Bedford/St. Martin’s.

Disclaimer: We did not include all of the resources conferred to formulate this handout. We encourage students to conduct further research to find additional resources. The format of this list is not commensurate with a standard format.