

APA In-Text Citations

The format for in-text citations has been designed to identify source material while interrupting the flow of the essay as little as possible. APA format follows an author-date method of citation. This means that the author's last name, the year of publication for the source, and—for direct quotation only—the page number should appear in the text separated by commas. If no author is indicated, use an abbreviated version of the title to substitute for the name of the author. The reader can use this in-text information to obtain more complete information (title, publisher, date of publication, etc.) about the source from the reference list at the end of the essay. This seems rather simple, but because there is some variation in how information is circulated, there can be subtle differences in how the in-text citations might appear. There are two elements to correct in-text APA citation: the signal phrase and the parenthetical citation. *How you introduce your information determines what appears in the parentheses.*

Examples of APA In-Text Citations

Some basic rules for in-text citation in the APA style are as follows:

- The *preferred* method for APA style is to include the author's name and the date (in parentheses) in the signal phrase. If you include a direct quote, then follow this with the page number (or other designation) in parentheses. Example: According to Kurtzweil (1997), in the 1970s, "15 million baby turtles were sold yearly in the United States" (p. 39).
- Commas should separate each element of the parenthetical citation. Example: (author, year, p. #) or (author, year).
- If you are directly quoting from a specific part of the text, use the appropriate abbreviation to indicate it. Example: *page* (p.), *paragraph* (para.), *chapter* (chap.) or *section* (sec.).
- When citing multiple authors in the in-text parenthetical citation, use an ampersand (&) between the final two names listed.
- If you are listing more than one source within the same parenthetical reference (because they appear within the same sentence), list them in alphabetical order.
- Italicize titles of periodicals, books, and reports in the text of the essay.

1. A Work by One Author

- Lewis (1997) states that a mid-1970s outbreak of salmonella affected "a quarter-million infants and small children" (p. 33).

