APA Format : In-Text Citations
Source: PerdueOWL website

APA citation basics

When using APA format, follow the author-date method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text, for example, (Jones, 1998), and a complete reference should appear in the reference list at the end of the paper.

Electronic Sources (Webpages, etc.)

If possible, cite an electronic document the same as any other document by using the author-date style.

Kenneth (2000) explained...

Short quotations

If you are directly quoting from a work, you will need to include the author, year of publication, and the page number (if there is one) for the reference (preceded by "p."). Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the date of publication in parentheses.

According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially

when it was their first time" (p. 199).

Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what

implications does this have for teachers?

If the author is not named in a signal phrase, place the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style" (Jones, 1998, p. 199), but she

did not offer an explanation as to why.

If you are paraphrasing, or just citing specific information, you only have to make reference to the author and year of publication in your in-text reference.

> According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners.

> APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

Unknown Author: If the work does not have an author, cite the source by its title in the signal phrase or use the first word or two in the parentheses. Titles of books and reports are italicized or underlined; titles of articles, chapters, and web pages are in quotation marks.

> A similar study was done of students learning to format research papers ("Using APA,"

> 2001).

Note: In the rare case the "Anonymous" is used for the author, treat it as the author's name (Anonymous, 2001). In the reference list, use the name Anonymous as the author.

Organization as an Author: If the author is an organization or a government agency, mention the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source.

> According to the American Psychological Association (2000),...

If the organization has a well-known abbreviation, include the abbreviation in brackets the first time the source is cited and then use only the abbreviation in later citations.

> First citation: (Mothers Against Drunk Driving [MADD], 2000)

> Second citation: (MADD, 2000)

Unknown Author and Unknown Date: If no author or date is given, use the title in your signal phrase or the first word or two of the title in the parentheses and use the abbreviation "n.d." (for "no date").

> Another study of students and research decisions discovered that students succeeded

> with tutoring ("Tutoring and APA," n.d.).

References Page

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