

APA IN-TEXT REFERENCES & SAMPLE REFERENCES LIST

WHAT ARE IN-TEXT REFERENCES?

An in-text reference is information you insert in your essay to refer the reader to an outside source from which you've borrowed an idea, a quotation, or facts.

The APA style manual requires you to provide three pieces of information in every in-text reference: the **source's author(s)**, the **year of publication**, and the relevant **page number(s)**. These three pieces of information can be presented all together, enclosed in parentheses at the end of your sentence, like this:

One doctor states that students who performed poorly on final exams were more likely to have deprived themselves of sleep in order to study for their exams (Mercer, 2015, pp. 199-200).

There are other ways to present the three bits of information. Sometimes you want to use the author's name to introduce the information or quotation you're presenting. If you include the name of the source's author in the text or body of your sentence, then the year of publication appears in parentheses immediately after the source, and just the page numbers appear enclosed in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Dr. Isaac Mercer (2015) states that students who performed poorly on final exams were more likely to have deprived themselves of sleep in order to study for their exams (pp. 199-200).

WHAT ARE PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES?

An in-text reference is called a "parenthetical reference" when we put all three pieces of information inside a set of parentheses. However, as the discussion above should make clear, this is not the only format for presenting an in-text reference.

WHY ARE IN-TEXT OR PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES NEEDED?

To be fair to your sources, and to avoid plagiarism, you must acknowledge any borrowed material in your paper and give credit to the author of the source you're borrowing from. An in-text reference is a shorthand link to a more complete description of the source on your references list.

HOW DOES AN IN-TEXT REFERENCE RELATE TO THE REFERENCE LIST?

The in-text reference is an abbreviated or shorthand reference that directs your reader to your **references list** at the end of the paper. The reference list is organized alphabetically and contains a more detailed description of each of the sources cited in your paper; from this detailed or **complete reference**, your reader will be able to find the source for him/herself. For the examples above, the complete reference on the reference list would look like this:

Mercer, I. (2015). Sleep deprivation in students. *Student Medical*, 2(4), 195-203.

ONE AUTHOR: APA's author+date method of citation requires that the surname of the author (do not include suffixes such as Jr.) and the date of the year of publication be inserted in the text at the appropriate point:

Kessler (2003) found that early onset results in a more persistent and severe course (p. 105).
Alternatively: Early onset results in a more persistent and severe course (Kessler, 2003, p. 105).

MULTIPLE AUTHORS: When a work has two authors, cite both names every time the reference occurs in text. When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs. In subsequent citations, include only the surname of the first author followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others"), plus the year if it is the first citation of the source within a paragraph.

Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) found... (p. 27). [Use as first citation in text.]
Kisangau et al. (2007) found... (p. 32). [Use as subsequent first citation per paragraph thereafter.]

GROUP AS AUTHOR: The names of groups that serve as authors (e.g., corporations, associations, and government agencies) can be either spelled out each time they appear in a citation or spelled out in the first citation and abbreviated thereafter. In deciding whether to abbreviate, use the general rule that you need to give enough information in the citation for the reader to locate the entry easily in the reference list.

NO NAMED AUTHOR: When a work has no identified author, cite the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title), year, and appropriate page number(s). Use quotation marks around the title of an article, a chapter, or web page and italicize the title of a periodical, book, brochure, or report.

Research has shown that consumers will spend more for personalized care ("Study Finds," 2007).

NO PUBLICATION DATE: When a work has no publication date, use the abbreviation n.d. in place of a year:

Smith (n.d.) argues... (p. 10). OR The author argues... (Smith, n.d., p. 10).

NO PAGE NUMBERS: To document a quotation or paraphrase from source material that does not include page numbers, you can include any of the following in the text:

A paragraph number, if provided: Basu and Jones (2007) went so far as to suggest the need for a new "intellectual framework in which to consider the nature and form of regulation in cyberspace" (para. 4).

A section heading followed by a paragraph number if neither page numbers nor paragraph numbers are provided: In their study, Verbunt, Pernot, and Smeets (2008) found that "the level of perceived disability in patients with fibromyalgia seemed best explained by their mental health condition and less by their physical condition" (Methodology section, para. 3)

A shortened section title enclosed in quotation marks if the section heading is too long to quote in full: (Golan, Kuchler, & Krissof, 2007, "Mandatory Labeling Has Targeted," para. 4)

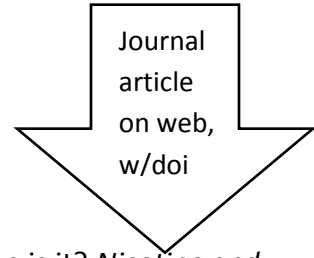
You may find the chart below, borrowed from the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Ed., useful when preparing in-text citations.

CREDITING SOURCES

Table 1.1 Basic Citation Styles				
Type of citation	First citation in text	Subsequent citations in text	Parenthetical format, first citation in text	Parenthetical format, subsequent citations in text
One work by one author	Walker (2007)	Walker (2007)	(Walker, 2007)	(Walker, 2007)
One work by two authors	Walker and Allen (2004)	Walker and Allen (2004)	(Walker & Allen, 2004)	(Walker & Allen, 2004)
One work by three authors	Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (1999)	Bradley et al. (1999)	(Bradley, Ramirez, & Soo, 1999)	(Bradley et al., 1999)
One work by four authors	Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, and Walsh (2006)	Bradley et al. (2006)	(Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, & Walsh, 2006)	(Bradley et al., 2006)
One work by five authors	Walker, Allen, Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (2008)	Walker et al. (2008)	(Walker, Allen, Bradley, Ramirez, & Soo, 2008)	(Walker et al., 2008)
One work by six or more authors	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	(Wasserstein et al., 2005)	(Wasserstein et al., 2005)
Groups (readily identified through abbreviation) as authors	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2003)	NIMH (2003)	(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2003)	(NIMH, 2003)
Groups (no abbreviation) as authors	University of Pittsburgh (2005)	University of Pittsburgh (2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)

...Continue for APA Sample References List

APA SAMPLE REFERENCE LIST



References

- Cunningham, J.A., & Selby, P. (2007). Relighting cigarettes: How common is it? *Nicotine and Tobacco Research, 9*(2), 621-623. doi:10.1080/14622200701239688
- Hu, Y., Wood, J. F., Smith, V., & Westbrook, N. (2004). Friendships through IM: Examining the relationship between instant messaging and intimacy. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, 10*, 38-48. doi:10.1111/j.1083-6101.2004.tb00231.x
- Tidwell, L. C., & Walther, J. B. (2002). Computer-mediated communication effects on disclosure, impressions, and interpersonal evaluations: Getting to know one another a bit at a time. *Human Communication Research, 28*, 317-348. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2958.2002.tb00811.x
- Underwood, H., & Findlay, B. (2004). Internet relationships and their impact on primary relationships. *Behaviour Change, 21*(2), 127-140.

Remember:

- Title the list "References" (without quotation marks or special treatment).
- Double-space; use standard margins.
- Alphabetize
- Use hanging indent.
- All sources that are referenced in-text must appear in the reference list, and all sources in the reference list must be cited in-text.
- Pay close attention to capitalization of titles.
- Italicize titles of books and journals, but not titles of journal articles.
- When in doubt, refer to the APA style manual or the *Writing Intensive* (2nd Edition) handbook (you also can visit our website or Purdue Owl for additional resources).