

APA In-Text Citations

Based on the following: American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

DISCLAIMER: Many of the examples on this handout use made-up sources.

Section 1: In-Text Citations

Two Options for In-Text Citations

Option 1: Author in Narrative Followed by Publication Date in Parentheses

This option is often used for direct quotes, for which a parenthetical page number is also included after the quoted material.

Brown (2022) reported that “flux capacitation below 1.21 gigawatts proved impossible” (p. 9).

Option 2: Author and Publication Date in Parentheses After Borrowed Material

This option is often used for a paraphrase or summary, for which a page number is not required.

Subsequent advances in energy technology solved the fuel problem (**Brown, 2022**).

Special In-Text Citation Situations

No Author or No Date

If the author is unknown, use the title of the work in the narrative or a shortened version of the work’s title in parentheses. If the date is unknown, put the abbreviation “n.d.” where the date would be.

Upon requesting advice from the community after repeated failures, players are often told that they should simply “git gud,” a slang term meaning, “to become proficient” (**“Elden Wringer,” n.d.**).

No Page Number

When quoting an article with no page numbers, give a paragraph number with the abbreviation “para.” (even if the paragraphs are not numbered). If the article has section headings, then use the section heading along with paragraph numbers. For other works without page numbers, use part information appropriate to that source, such as timestamps for videos, slide numbers for presentations, and table numbers for tables.

Lecter (2021) found that “food-sharing activities such as dinner parties were, quite surprisingly, detrimental to the long-term well-being of patients” (**Food & Well-Being section, para. 8**).

Connor (2020) believed, “The singularity, though inevitable, can be indefinitely delayed” (**00:20:05–7**).

State-dependent memory is “an effective tool in reducing paradox-induced cognitive overload” (**Sanchez, 2022, Slide 9**).

Two Authors

Every time you cite the work, name both authors. Join their names with “and” in a narrative citation and “&” in a parenthetical citation.

According to **Morales and Stacy** (2022), “Advancements in gene-editing technology could lead to commercially viable methods of farming spider silk for the textile industry (p. 14).

Genetic engineering could make large-scale production of spider-silk fabrics a reality (**Morales & Stacy, 2022**).

Three or More Authors

Use the first author's name followed by "et al."

As concluded by **Oak et al.** (2021), "The ethicality and legality of owning—and even training—certain animal species should be reconsidered in light of their level of self-awareness" (p. 21).

Group Author

For the first citation, give the full name of the group followed by a familiar acronym (if available). After that, only use the acronym when referencing the group author.

According to the West Hampton Institute of Memology (WHIM, 2022), the captioning and dissemination of recognizable images online is a pillar of the digital zeitgeist.

The captioning and dissemination of recognizable images online is a pillar of the digital zeitgeist. (West Hampton Institute of Memology [WHIM], 2022).

Secondary Source (AKA an Indirect Source)

When citing a work cited within another work, use the phrase "as cited in." Include the date of the cited work if it is known.

Maathai (2004, as cited in Nguyen et al., 2020) reported that the Green Belt Movement "planted over 30 million trees that provide fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their children's education and household needs" (p. 201).

The Green Belt Movement "planted over 30 million trees that provide fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their children's education and household needs" (Maathai, 2004, as cited in Nguyen et al., 2020, p. 201).

Note: If possible, you should avoid using secondary sources; instead, you should find and cite the primary source.

Personal Communication

Personal interviews, unpublished correspondence (texts, emails, etc.), and other communications that your audience cannot recover are all treated as personal communications and cited only in the text using the author's initials and surname, the label "personal communication," and an exact date (if possible).

Phatic gestures play a key role in first-contact situations (N. Uhura, personal communication, 2021).

Whole websites

For general reference to whole websites, include the URL in a parenthetical citation.

The researchers spent months examining the principle of balanced reciprocity at play in the upvote system on **Reddit** (<https://www.reddit.com>).

Section 2: Integrating Borrowed Material

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when you intentionally or unintentionally give the impression that words or ideas from another person are your own. The best way to avoid plagiarism—a **serious academic offense**—is to make sure *you* have something to say about your topic first. Then follow the conventions of summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting to give credit to the other people whose information you're sharing with readers.

Three Ways to Cite Borrowed Material

Quotation

Record another person's **exact** words to preserve their accuracy or to relay especially vivid, well-phrased, or dramatic statements. Always include a page or other part number when quoting.

According to Álvarez et al. (2019), "The high pathogenicity and antibiotic resistance of many *S. aureus* strains is severely affecting health care systems worldwide" (Conclusions section, para 1).

Paraphrase

Restate another person's ideas in your own words. A paraphrase is usually a sentence or two, is used for short portions of a work, and does not necessarily condense the original version the way a summary does.

Disease-causing antibiotic-resistant *S. aureus* strains compromise healthcare around the world (Álvarez et al., 2019).

Note: If you paraphrase material, a page number is not required. However, you may include it if you are borrowing from a longer work (like a book) and want to ensure a reader can find the material in the original.

Summary

Concisely restate the main facts or ideas of an entire work or section of a work (i.e. a book chapter or section of a paper). When writing a summary, be brief, be accurate, and use your own words and style to express the idea. When summarizing an entire book, article, or essay, page numbers are unnecessary.

Given that many *S. aureus* strains have the potential to develop antibiotic resistance as well as cause disease, new antimicrobial strategies are needed to treat *S. aureus* infections. A wide range of new bacteriophage therapies are being developed to this end with promising results (Álvarez et al., 2019).

Integrating Long Quotations

When you quote forty or more words from a work, set off the quotation by indenting it one-half inch from the left margin. Use the normal right margin. Long quotations should be introduced by an informative sentence, usually followed by a colon. Quotation marks are unnecessary because of the indented format, and the period is placed at the end of the sentence instead of after the parenthetical reference.

Example of a Long Quotation:

Concerning the advantages of bacteriophage therapy, Álvarez et al. (2019) noted the following:

Antibiotics have a broad spectrum of action and exert a selective pressure not only on the target pathogen but also on the whole bacterial community exposed. In contrast, phage application only exerts selective pressure on the target bacteria. This characteristic is also very advantageous when taking into account the health benefits of keeping the beneficial microbiota intact during antimicrobial therapy. (p. 23)

Bacteriophage therapy could therefore avoid the scorched-earth solution offered by antibiotics in favor of a more-precisely targeted solution.

Reminder: Make sure the in-text citation matches a corresponding entry on the references-list page, where you give the full publication information for each work referenced:

Álvarez, A., Fernández, L., Gutiérrez, D., Iglesias, B., Rodríguez, A., García, P. (2019, November 22). Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in hospitals: Latest trends and treatments based on bacteriophages. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 57(12). <https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.01006-19>

The Quotation Burger*

Using quotes in your APA paper helps support the points you are making, but if you don't set up a quote properly, it can confuse your audience. Your readers need to move from your words to the words of a source without feeling a jolt. One helpful analogy is a hamburger.

The Top Bun*

Use a signal phrase. A signal phrase prepares your readers for what is coming. Here are some phrases for introducing quotations:

X (2017) noted, “. . .” (p. 50).

X (2015) believed, “. . .” (p. 336).

X (2019) advised, “. . .” (p. 3).

According to X (2011), “. . .” (p. 1).

In X’s view (2008), “. . .” (p. 11).

X wrote (2019), “. . .” (p. 11).

X explained (2012), “. . .” (p. 11).

X argued (2016), “. . .” (p. 11).

The Meat*

The meat is the quote itself. Choose words and phrases that help support your ideas. Be sure to *quote the words exactly!*

The Bottom Bun*

You need to tell your reader why and/or how this quote connects to the point you are making in your paper and/or in the paragraph. Here are some sample phrases for explaining quotations:

X reported that . . .

In other words, X believed . . .

This study revealed . . .

These words suggested . . .

X’s point was that . . .

X’s findings have shown that . . .

Examples of the Quotation Burger

According to Morales and Stacy (2022), “Advancements in gene-editing technology could lead to commercially viable methods of farming spider silk for the textile industry” (p. 14). Consequently, broad consumer demand for spider-silk fabrics might incentivize further research into genetic manipulation and bring the practice closer to mainstream acceptance.

As concluded by Oak et al. (2021), “The ethicality and legality of owning—and even training—certain animal species should be reconsidered in light of their level of self-awareness” (p. 21). However, human-centric bias would affect such philosophical considerations, skewing opinion toward the status quo of animal ownership.

Álvarez et al. (2019) observed, “The high pathogenicity and antibiotic resistance of many *S. aureus* strains is severely affecting health care systems worldwide” (Conclusions section, para 1). In other words, the spread of *S. aureus* bacteria in healthcare facilities around the globe has created a major health crisis.

Examples of Signal Phrase Verbs (Signal-phrase verbs should be in past or present perfect tense.)*

acknowledged	admitted	argued	believed
commented	confirmed	declared	disputed
endorsed	illustrated	insisted	noted
pointed out	rejected	responded	thought
added	agreed	asserted	claimed
compared	contended	denied	emphasized
granted	implied	maintained	observed
reasoned	reported	suggested	wrote

*Section adapted with changes from Graff, G., & Birkenstein, C. (2006). *They say I say: The moves that matter in academic writing*. W. W. Norton and Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2016). *A writer’s reference* (8th ed.). Bedford/St. Martin’s.

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