

The APA citation style is an author-date system of referencing other people's words and ideas within the text of a paper. Sources are briefly identified within the text using the authors' surnames, year of publication, and location reference (e.g., page or paragraph number) enclosed in parentheses at the point where the information is used.

Citing References in Text American Psychological Association (APA) Style

This is known as a parenthetical reference citation. A detailed list of all parenthetical reference citations is provided at the end of the paper. This is called a reference list. For help on how to prepare your reference list, consult the library's handout, "APA Style: The Reference List."

The following examples briefly illustrate how to cite sources within your text using APA style. Numbers in brackets refer to specific rules and sections within the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. (call number: BF 76.7 P83 2010). For further clarification, please consult the manual.

Examples of Parenthetical Reference Citations [6.03-6.21]

When quoting from a source, you must cite the author(s), year of publication, and location (e.g., page or paragraph number) in a parenthetical reference citation [6.03]. When paraphrasing, you must cite the author(s) and the year of publication in a parenthetical reference; you are also encouraged to provide a page or paragraph number if it will help your reader locate the specific passage [6.04]. **NOTE:** Some instructors may require that you always include a location reference in your parenthetical reference citations regardless of whether the cited material is quoted or paraphrased.

One Author [6.11]

Example:

Gower (2001) argues that leisure time should not be regarded as either time wasted or an unproductive pursuit (p. 207).

OR

Leisure time should not be regarded as either time wasted or an unproductive pursuit (Gower, 2001, p. 207).

Two authors [6.12]

Example:

A recent study shows that many people plan their leisure time in advance in order to ensure they allow time for it in their hectic schedules (Jackson & Mackaray, 2003).

Refer to Section 6.12 and Table 6.1 for examples of how to cite three or more authors.

No author [6.15]

When a source has no apparent author, cite a shortened version of the title. Enclose the titles of articles, chapters, or web pages in double quotation marks and italicize the titles of periodicals, books, brochures, or reports.

Example:

Those surveyed believed that all of the activities they chose as part of their leisure time were entertaining ("Fun and Leisure," n.d., p. 43).

Note: Use n.d. (no date) when no publication date is available. [6.28]

Citing Quoted Material [6.03 - 6.10]

Short quotation (fewer than 40 words) [6.03]

When quoting a short passage from a source, incorporate the quotation into the text of your paper, placing the quoted words in double quotation marks, followed by a citation that includes the location (e.g., page number).

Example:

Theories exist which shed light on how we view our leisure time activities: "No matter what we do, there is never enough time to accomplish everything on our 'to-do' lists" (Carlaw, 1988, p. 45).

Citing Quoted Material continued

Long quotation (40 or more words) [6.03 - 6.09]

When quoting a passage of 40 words or longer, set the quotation off from the rest of the text, indented about a half inch, and double spaced. No quotation marks are used. The citation is placed at the end of the quotation following the last mark of punctuation. This is called a block quotation.

Example:

Ralithan (1989) theorizes the causes behind our perceived loss of free time in the digital world:

Technology has undoubtedly increased the speed at which we can complete tasks. . . . However, it seems that just as we complete one assignment, another is added to our list. This speed has not liberated our schedules, but rather we filled it with more work. Yes, we can indeed complete twice the work in half the time. (p. 39)

Note: Only the page number is required in the above example because the author is named in the lead-in sentence.

Use an ellipsis (. . .) to indicate an omission. Three spaced periods (. . .) indicate where words have been left out of a quoted sentence. Four spaced periods (. . . .) indicate words that have been left out between sentences [6.08].

Citing Electronic Sources [6.03-605]

As with citations of printed sources, citations of online sources include the author and date in parentheses at the point where the information is used. Where a specific reference to a source is made, the following techniques are used:

Quotation from a source with page numbers [6.03]

When citing a quoted passage from an electronic source that has page numbers, use the page numbers as shown in the original document — not what your printer adds to the bottom of each page of your printout.

Example:

Harcourt (2001) has found that “outdoor activities tend to be the most popular choice for leisure time” (p. 9).

Quotation from a source without page numbers [6.05]

When pages of an electronic source are not numbered, cite your source by paragraph number (if provided), using the abbreviation *para*. In this example, the author is a research organization:

Example:

“Not everyone includes the time they spend exercising as part of their overall leisure time” (Institute of Leisurely Research, 1999, para. 3).

If there are no page or paragraph numbers, use any available headings and assign a number to the paragraph in the section you have quoted from (i.e., count down the paragraphs from the heading to the paragraph from which you cited information). Include both the heading and the paragraph number in your citation.

Example:

“Relaxing during your leisure time cannot compensate for a generally unhealthy lifestyle” (MacDonaugh, 2001, Stress Versus Exercise, para. 4).