APA In-text Citation Guidelines

Purpose:
In-text citations show your audience what information in your paper is borrowed and from where the borrowed information comes. They also work directly with your reference page. (In your essay you briefly note from where the material came; on your reference page you give the specific location of the material with a complete citation.)

Requirements:
A basic in-text citation needs to show 2 things: where the borrowed material starts and where the borrowed material ends.

Placing the citation smoothly within the text:
Use the author’s last name and date at the beginning of the borrowed material and then place the page number(s) (only when the material is a direct quote) from where the material came at the end of the borrowed material.

Example:
Video games for children have opponents and advocates. Norfleet (1999) defended the use of video games by children. He said it improves their hand and eye coordination and that it exercises their minds as they work their way through various puzzles and barriers. Norfleet stated, “The mental gymnastics of video games and the competition with fellow players are important to young children for their physical, social, and mental development” (p. 45). Yet some authorities disagree with Norfleet for several reasons.

Things to notice in the above example:
- The writer starts the citation using the author’s last name only and date of publication in parentheses but then refers to the author by last name only with no date throughout the rest of the citation.
- The writer refers to the borrowed research in past tense.
- The writer ends the borrowed material with a direct quote followed by the page number in parentheses with p. before the page number.

Placing the whole citation within parentheses:
Sometimes you may want to place the entire in-text citation in parentheses instead of mentioning the author’s name in the text. Notice that in this type of citation there is a comma between the author and the date. (No page number is used in these examples because the borrowed material is a paraphrase.)

Example:
One source explained that DNA in the chromosomes must be copied perfectly during cell reproduction (Justice, Moody, & Graves, 2002).

Or
One source (Justice, Moody, & Graves, 2002) explained that DNA in the chromosomes must be copied perfectly during cell reproduction.

**Citing indirect sources:**

Sometimes you will find a useful quote within a source that comes from a person other than the author of that source. To cite this type of borrowed information, you will need to list both the original author of the quote and the author of the source in which you obtained the quote.

*Example:*

After students get beyond middle school, they begin to resent interference by their parents, especially in school activities. They need some space from Mom and Dad. Greenburg (2001) said, “The interventions can be construed by the adolescent as negative, overburdening and interfering with the child’s ability to care for himself” (as cited in Peterson, 2001, p. 9A).

**Things to notice in the above example:**

- Greenburg is the person who actually said the quote.
- Peterson is the author of the source that used Greenburg’s quote.
- Greenburg will not appear on your reference page as a source because he is not an author of a source you used; Peterson is the author of the source and, therefore, will be found on the reference page.
- Use the words *as cited in* to show that the person you are quoting is found within one of your sources.
- If you do not have the date that the original quote was stated, use *(n.d.)* after the quote’s author.

**Citing long quotes of 40+ words:**

For a direct quotation that has 40 or more words, the in-text citation will be slightly different.

*Example:*

Albert (2001) reported the following:

> Whenever these pathogenic organisms attack the human body and begin to multiply, the infection is set in motion. The host responds to this parasitic invasion with efforts to cleanse itself of the invading agents.
>
> When rejection efforts of the host become visible (fever, sneezing, congestions), the disease status exists. (pp. 314-315)

**Things to notice in the above example:**

- Indent the direct quotation 5 to 7 spaces from the left margin and continue to double-space.
- Omit quotation marks.
- Indent the first line of any additional paragraphs in the quotation an extra 5 to 7 spaces (“Whenever rejection efforts….”)
- Place the parenthetical citation outside the last period.
Marking the end of paraphrased and summarized material without page numbers:

APA in-text citation style no longer requires a page reference at the end of paraphrased and summarized material. This situation can be tricky when showing where the borrowed material ends. In this situation, you still need to signify where the borrowed material begins (with the author’s name and date if possible), but you will also need to signify with your wording that you are done with the borrowed material.

➢ Transitioning Into Another Source:
   Another possible way to show the end of a citation when page numbers are not available would be to transition into another source:
   Example:
   Clark (2002) said the Content Scrambling System was created to develop a system where digital video discs (DVDs) would only play in players that were DVD-licensed since those players “[deactivated] all copying functions” (p. 149). As Clark stated, teenager Jon Johansen from Norway managed to find a code to break the system so that DVDs could be copied. Johansen then published the code on the Internet worldwide and created a problem for the technology and film companies. Even before that, Borland (2002a) showed how an “analog hole” existed for recording music or movies.

➢ Using Summary Sentences:
   Another way to show your audience that you are done paraphrasing and moving into your own thoughts is to end with a summary statement (these statements will be explained better later on in the course).
   Example:
   Americans and individuals from other nations will see the value of the offshore outsourcing trend as well as the actual earth itself. Outsourcing can benefit the world through positive environmental effects. A study by Facanaha and Horvath (2005) reported that in addition to the economic benefits, offshore outsourcing proved to reduce global warming potential and energy utilization. Environmental benefits provide better conditions for not just one geographic area, but for the entire world. In all senses, outsourcing is beneficial on a global scale as well as on a domestic scale in the U.S.

➢ Clearly Marking When the Research is Continuing:
   Within your writing, be sure that when you continue paraphrasing or summarizing research from the same source for more than one sentence that you clearly show that you are still referring to that same author.
   Example:
   Technology in the past to curb against piracy has failed several times. Hackers managed to find encryption codes to break through technological systems. For instance, Clark (2002) said that the Content Scrambling System was created to develop a system where digital video
discs (DVDs) would only play in players that were DVD-licensed since those players were specially programmed to not allow copying. As Clark stated, teenager Jon Johansen from Norway managed to find a code to break the system so that DVDs could be copied.

(Also see example on first page of this handout with Norfleet)

All in all, do your best to show where the paraphrased material ends. You can always contact your instructor if you are unsure if your cited material is clear.

**Special Situation with In-text Citations:**

1. If no author exists, use the first two words of the title as the author in the in-text citation.

   Example:
   
   According to one source ("Name Dropping," 1998), articles about the unusual names of towns are a regular feature of one national magazine.

2. If a work has more than one author, use “and” in the text but an “&” in the parenthetical citation.

   Example:
   
   Smith and Jones (1999) provided statistics on the toxic levels of water samples from 6 rivers.
   
   One study (Smith & Jones, 1999) provided statistics on the toxic levels of water samples from 6 rivers.

3. If a work has three to five authors, name them all in the first entry (e.g., Torgeson, Smith, Dunlap, & Lawrence, 1995), but thereafter use et al. (e.g., Torgeson et al., 1995). If a work has six or more authors, use et al. in the first and all subsequent references.

4. If you use personal communications (e.g., e-mail, interviews, conversations, memos, and any other non-recoverable data), cite them in the text only. Provide the initials as well as the last name of the source and the exact date.

   Example:
   
   T. Gifford (personal communication, September 23, 1999) admitted that his characters took on a life of their own.

5. If you have more than one source to document a given idea, cite them in alphabetical order and separate them with a semicolon.

   Example:
   
   Several sources (Robertson, 1998; Rollins, 1997; Templass, 1999) have addressed the aspect of gang warfare as a fight for survival, not just for control of local turf.

6. If you use Internet or online sources that do not contain page numbers, you will be unable to cite page numbers in your text (do not use printer page numbers). If your Internet or online sources contain paragraph numbers, you may cite them instead of page numbers (e.g., para. 44). If the Internet or online sources are in PDF format with original page numbers at the bottom, use those. If no page or paragraph numbers are provided, use section headings if provided or provide your own paragraph numbers.

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