

Help With: APA In-Text Citations

In the APA format, your sources are alphabetically listed at the end of your paper. In-text citations refer to the way you provide your reader with information about your sources within the text itself. Besides this handout, you can find more specific information in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition), the UNLV Writing Center website at <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/writing/apa.html> or at http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c09_s1.html.

- Citations are required for paraphrases and summaries of the original source as well as for direct quotations.
- The most common way to cite is to list the author, the year in parentheses, and then end the quotation with the page number in parentheses:

According to Chrysler (2003), despite growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5).

- It can be repetitive to write “according to...” over and over. You might also try a variation such as “Chrysler (2003) notes that...” Choose synonyms from the following list:

Writes, argues, contends, states, notes, relates, describes, remarks, asserts, maintains, implies, suggests, holds, mentions, concludes, announces, declares, insists, observes, discusses, says, relays, finds, surmises, ventures

- You can also place the author at the end of the citation:

Despite the growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (Chrysler, 2005, p. 5).

- If there is no author, use the name of the publication (Kaiser Foundation, 2005, p. 18), or some ‘key words’ from the source which will be recognizable in the list of references: (“Television Violence,” 2002). Note the quotation marks and placement of the comma.
- If you have a very long name as a source, type it like this the first time: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2001) and then in abbreviation if you use it again: (NIMH, 2001).
- Web pages or electronic documents are cited in-text the same way as books, but you may have to omit the page number in a web reference. If you are citing a PDF file, you can use its page numbers. With web pages you might not have a year, and so you can use this format: (Magnus, n.d.) –meaning, “no date.”
- Quoting a quote. Type your reference like this:
Former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher described “a nation of young people seriously at risk of tough illness” (as cited in Critser, 2003, p. 4).