

APA In-Text Citation

In-text citation for APA follows conventional rules in identifying a reference within a body of text. Below are several distinct rules to follow:

Parenthetical vs. narrative citations

The in-text citation can be placed in [parentheses](#) or naturally integrated into a sentence.

- **Parenthetical:** There is a correlation between social media usage and anxiety symptoms in teenagers (Parker, 2019).
- **Narrative:** Parker (2019) found a correlation between social media usage and anxiety symptoms in teenagers.

The publication year appears directly after the author's name when using the narrative format. The parenthetical citation can be placed within or at the end of a sentence, just before the period. Check out a full [example paragraph with in-text citations](#).

Every source you reference in your writing should be accompanied by an accurate APA citation. Our [plagiarism checker](#) can help ensure your paper contains appropriate author attributions.

Long Quotations

Place direct quotations that are 40 words or longer in a free-standing block of typewritten lines and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, indented 1/2 inch from the left margin.

fringilla. In at dictum urna. Jones's (1998) study found the following: (Signal phrase)

(Entire quotation indented 1/2 inch)

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or ask their teacher for help. Nulla egestas facilisis sagittis. Suspendisse auctor tincidunt purus, ac efficitur lectus eleifend ac. Morbi eleifend posuere ipsum, eget molestie arcu tincidunt eu. (p. 199) (Parenthetical follows ending punctuation)

APA in-text citations with multiple authors

If a work has two authors, separate their names with an ampersand (&) in a parenthetical citation or “and” in a narrative citation. If there are three or more authors, only include the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”, meaning “and others”.

Group authors known by their abbreviations (e.g., CDC) are written in full the first time and are abbreviated in subsequent citations.

Multiple authors in APA in-text citations

Author type	Parenthetical	Narrative
One author	(Harris, 2020)	Harris (2020)
Two authors	(Harris & Cook, 2020)	Harris and Cook (2020)
Three or more authors	(Harris et al., 2020)	Harris et al. (2020)
Group authors	(Scribbr, 2020)	Scribbr (2020)
Abbreviated group author	(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2020)
• First citation		
• Subsequent citations	(CDC, 2020)	CDC (2020)

No author, date or page number

Missing information in APA in-text citations

Unknown element	Solution	In-text citation
Author	Use the source title.	(<i>Source Title</i> , 2020)
Date	Write “n.d.” for “no date”.	(Harris, n.d.)
Page number	Use an alternative locator or omit the page number.	(Harris, 2020, 03:46) or (Harris, 2020)

No author

If the author of a source is unknown, try to determine if there is an organization or [government](#) responsible for creating the content. If so, include its name in the in-text citation (and reference entry).