

APA 6 Quick Guide: In-text

APA is an in-text citation style. This means you insert a brief reference ('citation') into your writing whenever you use a source. The in-text citation is made up of the author's surname and year of publication enclosed in round brackets. If referencing a direct quote, put the quote in double quotation marks, and include a page number in the reference. Examples are provided below for common sources.

... cost (Breen, 2017). However, Lee (2018) reported a contrary result, along with other studies (Keen, 2014; Lee, 2014; Wojk, 2013, 2016). This supports the contention that the original data was incomplete (Hillsdon, 2012), or as Johnson and Hansen (2015) have stated, "seriously deficient" (p. 97).

Where there are several authors, or no author, see the variations below.

Basic format - paraphrase (Author, Year)

When you paraphrase (i.e. put the author's idea into your own words), you need to include the author's surname (family name) and the year of publication. Place the citation either at the end of the sentence in brackets and *before* the full stop, or within a sentence.

... which is confirmed by one study (Breen, 2017).

← **BASIC AUTHOR AND YEAR**

... the study by Breen (2017) confirmed these results.

← **AUTHOR PROMINENT (IN SENTENCE)**

Basic format - quote (Author, Year, Page)

When you quote an author (i.e. use their exact words), you must provide the page number after the year.

It was described as "a stunning victory" (Harrison, 2015, p. 15).

← **PAGE NUMBER FOR QUOTE**

Harrison (2015) described it as "a stunning victory" (p. 15).

← **PAGE NUMBER FOR QUOTE, AUTHOR PROMINENT**

When quoting and there is no page number, use section or paragraph.

(Johnson, 2013, Introduction section) ... (Kennett, 2018, para. 12)
(Wong, 2012, Figure 3)

← **QUOTE, NO PAGE NUMBERS**

Two authors (Author & Author, Year)

For two authors, use the ampersand between the authors' surnames if the citation is placed at the end of a sentence in parentheses, but write 'and' where the citation is made within the text.

... which is confirmed by the most recent study (O'Connor & Smith, 2013).

← **TWO AUTHORS**

... the study by O'Connor and Smith (2013) confirmed these results.

← **TWO AUTHORS IN SENTENCE**

Three to five authors (Author, Author & Author, Year)

You need to include all surnames the first time you cite them. Use the ampersand (&) before the last author's surname if the citation is in brackets, and use 'and' if the citation is made within the text. If you reference this text again, use the first author's surname and 'et al.' as described overleaf for six or more authors.

(Roberts, O'Connor & Wall, 2015) OR Roberts, O'Connor and Wall (2015) ...

← **THREE AUTHORS, FIRST MENTION**

(Roberts et al., 2016) OR Roberts et al. (2016) ...

← **SUBSEQUENT MENTIONS**

Six or more authors (Author et al., Year)

In in-text citations, use the first author's surname followed by 'et al.' (Latin abbreviation meaning 'and others') in all mentions. Name all authors in the reference list, as given in the source.

(Bennan-Jones et al., 2014) OR Bennan-Jones et al. (2014) ... ← 6 OR MORE AUTHORS

More than one publication with same author and year (Author, Year + lowercase letter)

If there is more than one publication by the same author in the same year use *lower case* letters in alphabetical order to distinguish them:

... which is confirmed by the most recent study (Davies, 2015a). ← YEAR WITH LOWER CASE LETTER
 ... the study by Davies (2015b) confirmed these results. ← YEAR WITH LOWER CASE LETTER IN SENTENCE

Corporate authors (Organisation name, Year)

If the author is a corporation or association, the name is usually spelt out in full for each citation with an acronym in square brackets. The acronym can be used in repeated citations.

(Amnesty International, 2016) OR Amnesty International (2016) ← ALL MENTIONS
 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW], 2014) ← LONG NAME, FIRST AIHW (2014) ← SUBSEQUENT

Two or more sources for one idea (Author Year; Author Year)

Two or more works within the same parenthesis are ordered a) *alphabetically by surname*, and b) *earlier to later by year* if the same author is referenced more than once. Separate the authors with a semicolon (;).

Studies by Keen (2015); Lee (2014); and Wojk (2013) indicate that... ← AUTHOR PROMINENT
 ... along with other studies (Keen, 2015; Lee, 2014; Wojk, 2013). ← INFORMATION PROMINENT

Online sources

Online sources are treated the same as other in-text citations. Identify by surname (if available) and year as per the 'Basic format' examples, OR the title and year (if no author), as per the 'No author' example below.

Legislation/Criminal Cases (Government or organisation)

For legislation or criminal cases, the formatting is the same as in the reference list.

Plaintiff v Defendant [Year]. Series (if present). Law report. Page number. ← ORDERED ACCORDING TO YEAR

Plaintiff v Defendant (Year). Volume. Law report. Page number. ← ORDERED BASED ON VOLUME NUMBER

Name of Statute, Year (Abbreviated form of parliament who passed the act), section number (subsection number)

Burger King Corp v Hungry Jack's Pty Ltd [2011] NSWCA 187 ← TITLE in CIVIL CASE LAW
Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) s 124(1) ← TITLE in STATUTES

No author (Title, Year)

If there is no author, use the first few words of the reference list entry, usually the title. Italicise the title of a book or journal. For articles and chapters use instead double quotation marks.

... (*Style manual: For authors, editors and printers*, 2016) ← BOOK TITLE
 OR According to the *Style manual: For authors, editors and printers* (2016) ... ← BOOK TITLE IN

Other helpsheets available

- APA Quick Guide: Reference List