

# APA 7 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 reference 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 reference is placed at the end of a sentence in brackets, but write 'and' where the reference is made within the text.

... which is confirmed by the most recent study (Thompson & Smith, 2013).

← **TWO AUTHORS**

... the study by Thompson and Smith (2013) confirmed these results.

← **TWO AUTHORS IN SENTENCE**

## Three to twenty authors (Author et al., Year)

Use only the first listed author's surname followed by et al. (a Latin abbreviation meaning 'and others'). This applies in all mentions of that source in your text. Name all the authors in the reference list.

...outlining the thought processes (Demacheva et al., 2014).

← **3-20 AUTHORS AT END OF SENTENCE**

Demacheva et al. (2014) outlined the thought processes relevant to...

← **3-20 AUTHORS IN SENTENCE**

### 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 brackets are ordered alphabetically by surname. 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 references. 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 SENTENCE

## Other helpsheets available

- APA 7 Quick Guide: Reference List