Creating In-Text Citations using APA

When to cite:

- Cite ideas, theories, and/or research that have influenced your work
- Cite sources that you have personally obtained and read
- Cite sources when paraphrasing and when directly quoting material

Direct Quotes < 40 Words

If the quote you are citing is shorter than 40 words in length it can be included in the body of your paper.

- Provide author, year and page information
- Include the quotation in the text within double quotation marks
- In text citations may appear mid-sentence or at the end of sentence; see formatting rules below:

Example of mid-sentence in-text direct quote:

Interpreting these results, Robbins et al (2003) suggested that the “therapists in dropout cases may have inadvertently validated parental negativity about the adolescent” (p. 541), contributing to an overall climate of negativity.

Example of end of sentence in-text direct quote:

One of the factors contributing to a climate of negativity occurs when “therapists in dropout cases may have inadvertently validated parental negativity about the adolescent” (Robbins et al, 2003, p. 541).

Example of in-text paraphrased quote:

It is possible that therapists may have unwittingly validated negative parental concerns about adolescents who have dropped out of school (Robbins et al, 2003 p. 541).
Direct Quotes > 40 Words

If the quote you are citing is longer than 40 words in length, use a freestanding block quotation and omit quotation marks.

- Quotations should be double-spaced.
- Indent the first line as you would the start of a new paragraph.
- At the end of the quotation, cite the quoted source and the page in parentheses after the final punctuation mark.

Example:

Some significant finding was made surrounding attitudes and perceptions of negativity:

This is the start of the block indented quotation.

Continue indenting until the end of the quotation. After the final punctuation mark you would cite your source in the same format as a smaller quotation. (Author, year, pp. 100-101)

Special Conditions - Authors

Author formatting is dependent upon the number of authors in the work you are citing. The citation format is also dependent upon where in the text it falls. Mid-text citations and sentences that incorporate the author’s name should be formatted with the year in parentheses. For paraphrases or end of sentence citations, the entire reference should be enclosed in parentheses. See examples below.

One Author:
- Ex. Jackson (2007) or (Jackson, 2007)

Two – Five Authors:
- Use a comma between last names and an “and” before final author’s name
- Refer to subsequent citations in text using first name followed by et.al and the year
  Ex. Jackson et al. (2007) or (Jackson et al., 2007)

Six or more Authors:
- Use the name of the first author in the list followed by “et al.”
- Ex. Jackson et al. (2007) or (Jackson et al., 2007)
No Author:

- When there is no identified author, cite the first words of the Reference List entry (usually the title) and the year. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article, a chapter or a web page and italicize the title of a periodical, a book, a brochure or a report.

- Ex. (“Title of Article”, 2009) or (Title of Book, 2009)

Anonymous Author:

- If the work is designated as “Anonymous”, cite in text the word Anonymous as you would an actual last name. Ex. (Anonymous, 1998)

Authors with the Same Last Name:

- If your Reference List includes publications by two or more primary authors (i.e. listed first) with the same last name, include the first author’s initials in all text citations, even if the year of publication differs.

- Ex. “Among studies, we reviewed M. Light (2007) and I. Light (2008)…”

DON’T FORGET: All in-text citations must correspond to an entry in your Reference List at the end of your paper.