

APA In-Text Citation Guidelines

Overview

When citing sources in APA format, use the author-date method. This means including the author's last name and the year of publication in your text—for example: (Jones, 1998). Each in-text citation must have a matching entry in the reference list at the end of your paper.

Tense Usage

For literature reviews and method descriptions, use past or present perfect tense (e.g., Jones (1998) found or has found). In less formal contexts, the present tense may be appropriate (e.g., Jones (1998) finds).

Basic Format for In-Text Citations

If you're referring to an idea without quoting directly, include only the author and year: (Jones, 1998). If quoting directly, include the page number as well: (Jones, 1998, p. 199) or (Jones, 1998, pp. 199–201). Use 'p.' for a single page and 'pp.' for multiple pages with an en dash for ranges.

Capitalization, Quotes, and Italics in Citations

- Always capitalize proper nouns, including author names and initials (e.g., D. Jones).
- In titles within your text, capitalize all words of four letters or more.
- Capitalize both parts of hyphenated words (e.g., Natural-Born Cyborgs).
- After colons or dashes, capitalize the first word.
- Italicize book or movie titles and use title case: *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Use quotation marks and title case for shorter works like articles: "Multimedia Narration."

Short Quotations

For quotes under 40 words, incorporate them into the text with quotation marks. Include author, year, and page number.

Examples:

- According to Jones (1998), "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199).
- She stated, "students often had difficulty using APA style" (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

Long Quotations

Quotes of 40 words or more should be placed in a block of text without quotation marks. Start on a new line, indented 1/2 inch from the left margin. Double-space the entire quote and place the citation after the punctuation.

Sources Without Page Numbers

When quoting from sources without page numbers, use a logical alternative such as paragraph number, section, or table number.

Examples:

- (Jones, 1998, paras. 4–5)
- (Jones, 1998, Table 3)

Summarizing or Paraphrasing

When summarizing or paraphrasing, include the author and year: (Jones, 1998). Including page numbers is optional but recommended for longer works to help the reader locate the information.