

Citing References in Text  
Dr. Conkle – February 2010

When writing a paper that requires citing references (using APA guidelines), cite by author and date the works that support your position/thesis/problem statement. This briefly identifies the source for readers and enables them to locate info in the alphabetical references at the end of your paper. When citing in text there are 2 basic methods for inserting the citation info, that should be varied throughout the paper:

Winters (2000) stated/reported/compared/demonstrated/found/indicated/addressed/discussed (some samples of numerous words that might go there) .....

or

According to Johnson (2001),.....

or

In a study by Stevens (2009).....

If the name of the author appears as part of the narrative, as in the 1<sup>st</sup> example, cite only the year in parentheses. Otherwise, place both the authors) and year in parentheses, separated by a comma. Even if the reference includes month and year, use just the year in a text citation.

Within a paragraph, as long as the reference and information can not be confused with other sources, there is no need to cite the same reference again in that paragraph.

When a work has 2 authors, always cite both last names every time the reference occurs in text. If a work as 3, 4, or 5 authors, cite all authors the 1<sup>st</sup> time the reference occurs and in subsequent citations include only the surname of the 1<sup>st</sup> author followed by et al. (not italicized and with a period after al.)

Walsh, Zapka, Rosen, Ganum, and Rocker (1999) found..... [use as 1<sup>st</sup> citation in text]

Walsh et al. (1994) reported..... [use as subsequent 1<sup>st</sup> citation per paragraph thereafter]

Walsh et al. showed..... [omit year from citations after the 1<sup>st</sup> citation w/in a paragraph]

The exception is, if 2 references w/ the same year shorten to the same form, cite the surnames of the 1<sup>st</sup> authors and of as many authors as necessary to distinguish the 2 references, followed by a comma and et al.

When a work has 6 or more authors, cite only the surname of the 1<sup>st</sup> author followed by et al. and the year for the 1<sup>st</sup> and subsequent citations. In the reference list use all last names and initials of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 authors and shorten the remaining authors to et al.

When a work has no author, cite in text the 1<sup>st</sup> few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and year. Use double quotation marks around the title portion, and italicize the title of a periodical, book, brochure, or report.

....on free health care ("Study finds," 2002).....

...the book *College Bound Seniors* (1996).....

If a reference list includes publications by 2 or more primary authors with the same surname, include the 1<sup>st</sup> author's initials in all text citations, even if the publication years differs. Initials help avoid confusion w/in text and to locate an entry in the reference list.

R. D. Luce (1959) and P. A. Luce (2002) also found that.....

J. Goldberg and Neff (1961) and M. P. Goldberg and Waltz (1973) studied.....