

APA In-Text Citations: The Basics

There are 2 common reasons to provide in-text citations to your reader. They are:

When you are directly quoting someone:

If you are directly quoting from a work, you will need to include the author, year of publication, and the page number for the reference (preceded by "p."). Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the date of publication in parentheses.

- According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

If the author is not named in a signal phrase, place the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

- She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style" (Jones, 1998, p. 199), but she did not offer an explanation as to why.

When you are summarizing or paraphrasing another's words:

If you are paraphrasing an idea from another work, you only have to make reference to the author and year of publication in your in-text reference, but APA guidelines encourage you to also provide the page

- APA style can be a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

An In-Text Citation on a Work by Two Authors:

Name both authors in the signal phrase or in the parentheses each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text and use the ampersand in the parentheses.

- Research by Wegener and Petty (1994) supports...
OR
- Recent research supports the hypothesis that....(Wegener & Petty, 1994)

For more information and examples see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>