

For more on APA Text & Reference citations see <http://libguides.unco.edu/apa>

Rule #1 of APA Text Citations

For each text citation there must be a corresponding citation in the reference list and for each reference list citation there must be a corresponding text citation. Each corresponding citation must have identical spelling and year. *The purpose of the text citation is to briefly give readers the identity of the information you are citing, and allow them to find the information you provide in the reference list that enables readers to locate the exact piece of literature you used.*

Rule #2 of APA Text Citations

Each text citation must include at least two pieces of information:

- **author(s)**
- **year of publication**

Many times, this information will appear like this **(Smith, 2006)**. However, the same information may appear in other ways. Read on:

One Work by One Author

Example 1: In **1999 Johansen** reported that many women believe... (no parentheses are needed here, as all information is present).

Example 2: **Johansen (1999)** reported that many women believe...

Example 3: A report cited that many women believe...(**Johansen, 1999**).

One Work by Two Authors

Each time a work by two authors is cited, cite **both** authors. See examples from One Work by One Author for further information in how to cite.

Example: **Maude and Harold (2002)** claim attending funerals can be beneficial.

One Work by Three, Four, or Five Authors

For the first text citation of a work by three to five authors cite all authors. For all subsequent citations, include only the surname of the first author followed by et al. If the work is cited more than once within the same paragraph, omit the year after the first citation.

1st Citation: **Lennon, McCartney, Starr, and Harrison (1969)** noted in their research...

2nd Citation: **Lennon et al. (1969)** provided evidence that...

2nd Citation in same paragraph: **Lennon et al.** found that...

One Work by Six or More Authors

If a work you are citing has six or more authors, give only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year for the first and subsequent citations.

Authors with the Same Surname

If you have two works with the first authors having the same surname, include the first author's initials in *all* text citations, even if the year of publication differs.

Corporations, Associations, Government Agencies, and Other Groups as Authors

Names of group authors are always spelled out in the first citation. *The name should appear in the first text citation as it does in the reference citation.* However, in following citations, they are sometimes abbreviated and sometimes not. How to decide: You need to give enough information in the text citation for someone to find the reference list citation.

Reference List Name: **National Institute of Mental Health. (1999).**

First Text Citation: **(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1999)**

Following Text Citations: **(NIMH, 1999)**

Works with No Author

For a work with no author, cite the first few words of the reference list citation and the year.

Article Example: The findings demonstrate how ... (“**New Findings**,” 2001).

Book Example: In the book ***Dating of Beowulf*** (1981) it is stated that ...

Referring to Specific Parts of a Source

When citing a specific part of a source, include the appropriate information such as:

- page (abbreviate as p.)
- pages (abbreviate as pp.)
- chapter (abbreviate as chap.)
- paragraph (abbreviate as para. Or ¶)
- figure
- table

When quoting, always include the page number.

Example 1: **Kinsey** stated, “We are recorders and reporters of the facts...” (1953, p. 5).

Example 2: Discussing female sexuality, the author proclaims... (**Kinsey, 1953, chap. 9**).

Referring to Specific Parts of a Source – Electronic Documents without Page Numbers

For electronic documents that do not have page numbers (such as an article written in HTML that appears as one long page on the screen), give the paragraph number to indicate what part of the document you are referring to. Precede the paragraph number with the ¶ symbol or the abbreviation para. Also include section numbers where appropriate.

Example 1: As **Friday** stated, “They'd rather take their clothes off” (1984, ¶ 3).

Example 2: When explaining the idea of jealousy ... (**Friday, 1984, Introduction section**).