APA In-Text/Parenthetical Citations

General notes about in-text citations:

- While page numbers are not required for paraphrases, the APA manual *strongly recommends* the use of page numbers for *both* paraphrases and quotations. Due to this recommendation, this guide will provide page numbers or paragraph numbers for all examples.
- When including an in-text citation, always place the period after the parentheses, i.e. The cat jumped over the mouse (O’Hara, 2017, p. 1).
- In each citation list the authors’ names in the order they appear, *not* in alphabetical order.

*Examples:*

**Single author:**

- (Echterling, 2016, p. 5)

**Two authors:**

- (Wood & Palmer, 2015, p. 2)

**Three to five authors:**

- First time you cite the source, list all the authors’ last names:
  - (Richardson, Smith, Werndly, Abbott, & Schwam, 2013, p. 3)

- Subsequent times you cite the source, only list the first author’s name followed by et al., which is Latin for ‘and others’:
  - (Richardson et al., 2013, p. 3)

**Six or more authors:**

Provide the last name of the first listed author, followed by et al.

- (O’Hara et al., 2017, p. 1)

**Website with no author:**

If there is no author provided, list the first two words in the source’s title in quotation marks:

- (“Brain development,” 2017, para. 2)
Website with no author and no date:

If there is no date provided in the source, use the abbreviation n.d. (short for ‘no date’):

- (“Tummy time,” n.d., para. 3).

Corporate/organization author with a recognizable name abbreviation:

- **First** time you cite the source, provide the organization’s name followed by brackets containing the organization’s abbreviation:
  
  o (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2017, para. 3)

- **Subsequent** times you cite the source, use the abbreviation you listed in your first in-text citation:
  
  o (CDC, 2017, para. 3)

Corporate/organization author without a recognizable abbreviation:

Provide the full name of the organization in all in-text citations:

- (Clinton County Department of Social Services, 2017, para. 2)

Indirect sources:

If you want to cite a source mentioned in another source, this is called citing an indirect source. The APA manual suggests using indirect sources only when you cannot locate the original source. However, if you choose to cite an indirect source, you must provide both the original source (the source that first contained the idea) and the secondary source (the source in which you actually read the information). To do this, start your sentence with a signal phrase that notes the original source’s author & year and then end your sentence with an in-text citation for the secondary source.

Sources with no page numbers:

If there are no page numbers (often in electronic sources like web sites), provide as much as information as you can to easily point the reader to the location of the information. For short sources you can simply count the paragraph numbers so that your reader can find the information more easily. For longer sources, you can provide the heading under which the information can be found and the paragraph number under that heading.

- Shorter source example:
  - (O’Hara, 2008, para. 2)
- Longer source example:
  - According to O’Hara (2010), faculty and staff at higher educational institutions currently face a mental health challenge of increasingly severe proportions (Problem Statement section, para. 1).

In-person communications:

Emails, phone conversations, etc. do not need to be included in the Reference List, but do need to be cited in-text. Provide the author’s first initial, last name, Personal communication, and the date that the communication occurred.


Signal phrases:

A signal phrase tells the reader that you are about to introduce information that is not your own; the sentence “signals” the reader that you are about to provide a quotation or a paraphrase. Signal phrases, as seen in the boldface examples below, usually contain the authors’ names, the publication year, and an appropriate verb. Since these signal phrases contain the author and date, you do not need to repeat them at the end of your sentence; only the page number is added in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

- O’Hara (2017) found that “students who complete homework assignments often earn better final grades” (p. 5).
- O’Hara and Davis (2015) report that “student participation is necessary for successful course completion” (p. 1).
- O’Hara et al. (2016) conclude that “students often experience anxiety related to testing” (p. 1).