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Definitions of Common Terms

In-text citation: the abbreviated version of the full reference to your source material.

Typically, an in-text citation includes the author's last name and the date of publication (see examples throughout this document for variations).

In-text citations are generally located at either the beginning of a sentence or at the end of the information being cited.

If located at the beginning, the citation is built into the sentence with the author as subject:

ex. Battiste (2013) explains that even though some Canadian provinces are prioritizing diversity, their understanding of the central issues in indigenous contexts is limited.

At the end of the information being cited, the author and date are put in parentheses:

ex. Even though some Canadian provinces are prioritizing diversity, their understanding of the central issues in indigenous contexts is limited (Battiste, 2013).

When using a direct quotation, you must include the page number(s) after the date; when paraphrasing, APA recommends but does not require that the page number(s) be cited.

Examples: "after a quotation" (name, date, p. 2); after a paraphrase (name, date).

References (vs. Bibliography vs. Works Cited): the title used in APA citation style for the list of sources used (referred to) in the document.

The References page appears at the end of the document and contains in alphabetical order all of the sources cited in the document that the reader would be able to access themselves. It does not contain items that have not been referred to.

The Basics of APA Style

Producing a document that conforms to all of the rules set out by APA can be daunting. However, if you remember these three simple things, then you should be able to create an accurate in-text citation and reference page entry for almost any source:

1. Have a clear, direct connection between the in-text citation and the first word in the References page entry.

One of your main jobs as a writer in academic contexts is to make it as easy as possible for your reader to locate your sources. The information you include in your in-text citation is a sign post that directs your reader to the more complete bibliographic data that you include in your reference page entry.

Think of the in-text citation as an “Abbotsford 25 km” sign along the highway and the reference page entry as the sign just outside of town that says “Welcome to Abbotsford, population 125,000, Sister city of Fukagawa, Japan.” The first sign (in-text citation) gives a bit of the key information and assures you that you’re going in the right direction. The second sign (reference page entry) tells you that you’ve reached your destination and gives you a bigger picture of the place you’ve arrived at. (In this metaphor, the city of Abbotsford itself would be the original source.) If the first road sign said “Abbotsford 25 km” and the second one said “Welcome to Kelowna,” you would be lost. That’s how a reader might feel if your in-text citation didn’t lead them directly to your reference page entry.

To create a clear path for your reader, your References page is organized alphabetically by author’s last name (or, if there is no author, by organization or title). Your in-text citation use whatever appears at the beginning of its reference page entry. For example, if your in-text citation looks like this:

Even though some Canadian provinces are prioritizing diversity, their understanding of the central issues in indigenous contexts is limited (Battiste, 2013)

then your References page entry must begin like this:

Battiste, M. (2013).

That duplication of information is the connection the reader needs to locate your sources easily.

See the “Sample References Page” on pages 13 and 14 of this document for more information.

2. Memorize the four basic parts of the reference page entry.

Despite how complicated APA references look, they all comprise four basic elements in the same order:

WHO (author, editor, producer, “organization as author,” title if no author or organization is named)

WHEN (date of publication — usually just the year, but could also include month, day, season, or n.d. (no date))

WHAT (title of book, article, movie, report, etc.)

WHERE (publisher, URL, DOI, name of periodical)

All items on your References page should follow that basic pattern. Different formats of publication will have different ways of expressing the four basic parts, but the pattern doesn’t change.

Journals, Newspapers, & Other Periodicals

Source Type	In-Text Citation	Reference & Notes
Magazine, online, one author	(Block, 2014)	Block, S. (2014). The right way to borrow for college. (11), 54-59. https://www.kiplinger.com/article/college/t042-c000-s002-the-right-way-to-borrow-for-college.html
Newspaper, online, two authors	(Broadbent & Rake, 2014)	Broadbent, V. & Rake, A. (2014, November 19). Sessional instructors on the fringes of UFV priorities, despite impact in classrooms. http://ufvcascade.ca/sessional-instructors-on-the-fringes-of-ufv-priorities-despite-impact-in-classrooms/
Journal, online, two authors	(Brophy & Tucker- Abramson, 2012)	Brophy, E., & Tucker-Abramson, M. (2012). Struggling universities: Simon Fraser University and the crisis of Canadian public education. 21-40. https://utpjournals.press/doi/10.3138/topia.28.21
Journal, online, one author	(Miliotis, 2014)	Miliotis, H. (2014). Higher education in Greece compared to Canada. (1). http://collegequarterly.ca/2014-vol17-num01-winter/miliotis.html
Journal, online with DOI	(Piché, 2015)	Piché, P. G. (2015). Institutional diversity and funding universities in Ontario: Is there a link? (1), 52-68. https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2014.991537
2 Journal articles with the same authors & same publication date	(Kensinger & Schacter, 2005a) (Kensinger & Schacter, 2005b)	Kensinger, E., & Schacter, D. (2005a). Emotional content and reality monitoring ability: fMRI evidence for the influences of encoding processes. , 1429-1443. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2005.01.004 Kensinger, E. & Schacter, D. (2005b). Retrieving accurate and distorted memories: Neuroimaging evidence for the effects of emotion. , 167-177. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2005.03.038
Journal article with Anonymous author	(Anonymous, 2020)	Anonymous. (2020). Observations on the Egyptian independent music scene and political dynamics in a Post-Revolutionary context. (3), 540-544. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743820000641

Journal article, source-in-source	(Funder, 1997, as cited in Triandis & Suh, 2002)	Triandis, H.C. & Suh, E.M. (2002). Cultural influences on personality. , 133-160. http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.psych.53.100901.135200
Journal article, print, pagination by volume	(Al-Zaharani & Kaplowitz, 1993)	Al-Zaharani, S. S., & Kaplowitz, S. A. (1993). Attributional biases in individualistic and collectivistic cultures: A comparison of Americans with Saudis. , 223-233. https://doi.org/10.2307/2786780
Journal article, print, pagination by issue	(Whalen, 2002)	Whalen, T. (2002). Defusing controversial topics: Visual semiotics in an Atlantic Canadian textbook. (2), 5-30. https://doi.org/10.31468/cjsdwr.485
Journal article, online, three or more authors	(Bombay et al., 2009)	Bombay, A., Matheson, K., & Anisman, H. (2009). InAnisaBTc4r3.49rSq146.7



Web Documents

Source Type	In-Text Citation	Reference & Notes
Web page	(UFV Faculty of Science, 2021)	University of the Fraser Valley Faculty of Science. (2021). https://www.ufv.ca/science/science-in-the-community/science-rocks/

Twitter post (Tweet)

Notes, Interviews, Ephemera, & Unpublished Essays

Source Type	In-Text Citation	Reference & Notes
Unpublished essay	(Bassi, 2016)	Bassi, M. (2016). Unpublished manuscript, Department of Philosophy, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, BC, Canada.

Lecture notes,
Email, Letter,
Interview,
Conversation,
Course handout
not available
publicly, Phone
call, etc.

(B. McGregor,
personal
communication,
September 12, 2016)

Interview with
recoverable data

See note —>

Table adapted from multiple online sources by pulling data not copy/pasting rows or columns

Within the table next to the relevant data OR in one row or column for all sources:

(AETSolar, n.d.)

(EDN, 2010)

AETSolar. (n.d.). Temperature vs resistance conversion chart for 10k thermistors. https://f01.justanswer.com/Poolservice123/1ea3dfc8-6a7a-46c2-a991-13c92210166a_TempVsResistChart.pdf

EDN. (2010, May 31). Strengths and weaknesses of common resistor types. <https://www.edn.com/strengths-and-weaknesses-of-common-resistor-types/>



Sample Refef