APA Examples
Avoiding Plagiarism: Using Sources Responsibly and Effectively

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5 Methods for Using Information and Ideas

First 4 ways to work with others’ information must be acknowledged via in-text citations and Works Cited page entries.

1. Direct Quotations: placing another’s words in quotation marks.
2. Paraphrase: putting another’s ideas or information in your own words.
3. Summary: retelling or condensing work done by another in your own words.
4. Specific Knowledge: an idea or information attributable to a writer or work.

The 5th type of information does not need to be acknowledged

5. General Knowledge: information found in one or more sources, but generally known.
Unique Situations

- **Quote within a quote**: the entire passage is placed within “quotation marks” and the internal quote has ‘single’ quotation marks.

- **“As cited in”**: used when a writer’s quoted words appear in a source written by someone else; give credit in the tag phrase to the person who actually spoke the words; then, in your parenthetical citation, add the phrase “as cited in” to show where you got this quote (as it’s not from the original source).

- **Long/Block quotes**: used when quoting 40 or more words of text.

- **Multiple Authors**: often, sources have more than one author.
The author’s last name (or a title) in the parenthetical reference (in-text citation) always corresponds with the item as it is listed on the Reference page.

**Text of research paper**

As McGlynn (2008) asserted, “[t]he monarch was expected to employ whatever violence necessary in pursuit of social stability and safety of his subjects” (p. 54).

**References Page Entry**

Throughout the whole medieval period there was popular demand for malefactors to receive punishment that was both harsh and purposefully terrifying. This reflected people’s investment in the social order and their anxiety at any perceived threat to it. Legitimate, judicial violence was deemed essential in the fight to suppress illegitimate, random violence. The monarch, in his role as the supreme judge, was expected to employ whatever violence was necessary in pursuit of social stability and safety for his subjects. Mutilations sent out a message of warning and deterrence; executions offered the ultimate guarantee against repeat offenders.
Direct Quotations

**Author’s Name in Signal Phrase**

Use the author’s last name, place the year of publication in parentheses and use a strong past tense action verb—followed by a comma. Place the page number in parentheses following the quote.

*Example:*

Historian McGlynn (2008) asserted that medieval rulers often used “harsh and purposefully terrifying” (p. 54) forms of punishment to control crime.

**Author Not Named in Signal Phrase**

If the author is not named in the signal phrase, place the author’s last name, year of publication, and page number in the parenthetical citation at the end of the quote.

*Example:*

As one historian noted, “the monarch was expected to employ whatever violence was necessary in pursuit of social stability and safety for his subjects” (McGlynn, 2008, p. 54).
Paraphrase

Paraphrases are written entirely in your own words. Therefore, there is no explicitly quoted information and thus no quotation marks.

Example (based on previous passage):

McGlynn (2008) noted that a medieval ruler used dreadful punishments to protect his subjects and keep them in line, and his subjects accepted this policy.

-OR-

A medieval ruler used dreadful punishments to protect his subjects and keep them in line, and his subjects accepted this policy (McGlynn, 2008).
Summary

Summaries are used to re-tell or condense work done by another, in your own words; requires a lead-in passage and a parenthetical citation.

Example (based on previous passage):

McGlynn (2008) noted that medieval rulers punished criminals in violent, frightening ways to fight crime and maintain order. The rulers’ subjects expected and supported this kind of justice.
Specific knowledge is no different than a direct quote, except it is often just a few words or a short phrase attributed to a specific author or work.

Example (based on previous passage):

Trial by “water ordeal,” which operated on the premise that the innocent would sink while the guilty would float, is a practice that was legally established as far back as the late 12th century (McGlynn, 2008, pp. 55-56). (←note the pp. used for more than one page)
General knowledge is information that is found in more than one source and is seen as commonly known—use this sparingly when writing papers. No citation necessary.

Example (based on previous passage):

Medieval European life was grim and barbaric by today’s standards. Frequent wars, widespread disease, and institutionalized cruelty were just a few of the problems medieval societies faced.
Quote Within a Quote

*Quote within a quote* occurs when a quotation you would like to include in your paper has quoted material within it. In this case, the entire passage is placed within “quotation marks,” and the internal quote has ‘single’ quotation marks.

*Example:*

Horace Mann’s (2012) article noted, “He coined the phrase ‘the great equalizer’ when discussing the merits of education” (p. 123).

[In the original source, Horace Mann uses quotation marks around “the great equalizer.”]
“As cited in” is used when a writer’s quoted words appear in a source written by someone else. Give credit in the tag phrase to the person who actually wrote the words; then, in your parenthetical citation, add the phrase “as cited in” to show where you got this quote, along with the publication date per APA standards.

Example:
Seidenberg and McClelland’s (1990) study examined the relationship between authority figures and their subordinates (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993).

[Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins & Haller are quoting information from Seidenberg and McClelland. Your reference entry will give credit to Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins & Haller.]
Long/Block Quotes

Long or Block quotes occur when you quote 40 or more words from a source.

APA format requires:
- the entire quote is indented ½ inch
- set the quote off from your signal phrase with a colon
- do not use “quotation marks”
- put the end punctuation before the citation (instead of after).

Example:

Yanovski and Yanovski (2002) have described earlier treatments for obesity that focused on behavior modification:

With the advent of behavioral treatments for obesity in the 1960s, hope arose that modification of maladaptive eating and exercise habits would lead to sustained weight loss, and that time-limited programs would produce permanent changes in weight. Medications for the treatment of obesity were proposed as short-term adjuncts for patients, who would presumably then acquire the skills necessary to continue to lose weight, reach "ideal body weight," and maintain a reduced weight indefinitely. (p. 592)
Multiple Authors

Two Authors
Name both authors in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation each time you cite the work. Use “and” between the authors' names within the text and the “&” symbol in the parentheses.

Example:
Research by Wegner and Petty (1994) supported...

-OR-
(Wegner & Petty, 1994).

Three to Five Authors
List all the authors in the signal phrase or in parentheses the first time you cite the source. Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text and use the “&” in the parentheses.

Example:
(Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry, & Harlow, 1993)
In subsequent citations only use the first author's last name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase or in parentheses.

(Kernis et al., 1993)
*the "et" in "et al." should not be followed by a period.
Multiple Authors: More Examples

**6 or More Authors**

Use the first author's name followed by *et al.* in the signal phrase or in parentheses.

*Example:*

Harris et al. (2001) argued...

-OR-

(Harris et al., 2001)

**Unknown Author**

If the work does not have an author, cite the source by its title in the signal phrase or use the first word or two in the parentheses.

*Example:*

A similar study was done of students learning to format research papers ("Using APA," 2001).

Note: In the rare case that "Anonymous" is the author, treat it as the author's name (Anonymous, 2001). In the reference list, use the name Anonymous as the author.

**Organization as Author**

If the author is an organization or a government agency, mention the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source.

*Example:*

According to the American Psychological Association (2000),...

If the organization has a well-known abbreviation, include the abbreviation in brackets the first time the source is cited and then use only the abbreviation in later citations.

First citation: (Mothers Against Drunk Driving [MADD], 2000)
Second citation: (MADD, 2000)