

APA 7th Quick Guide

In-Text Citation

When you use a source in your text, you also briefly tell us **who** said (the author(s)) it, **when** they said it (the year), and **where** that information was found (the page number, if you have it). It makes it easy for readers to find the source's entry in the references page(s). Here are some examples of in-text citation:

MY SOURCE HAS ONE AUTHOR

Oluo (2018) explains cultural appropriation as “the adoption or exploitation of another culture by a more dominant culture” (p. 146).

OR

When the dominant culture profits from or emulates characteristics of a historically oppressed or marginalized culture, this is called cultural appropriation (Oluo, 2018, p. 146).

MY SOURCE HAS TWO AUTHORS

Cats can't create a vacuum because their cheeks aren't complete. This is why they lap up water with their tongues (Durrani & Kalaugher, 2016, p.58).

OR

Durrani and Kalaugher (2016) describe cats' cheeks as “incomplete,” which is why they don't suck up water with their mouths, but rather lap it up with their tongues (p. 58).

MY SOURCE HAS THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Just use the first author's last name and “et al.” Et al. is an abbreviation of et alia, which means “and others” in Latin.

Parents whose children used art therapy during painful medical procedures also reported that the entire process seemed more manageable when the children had something else to focus on and a way to express their feelings (Favara-Scacco et al., 2001).

MY SOURCE IS AN ORGANIZATION

The university has recently been recognized for the number of students who volunteer their time for charitable organizations (Western Washington University, 2019).

Your Reference Page

This is an alphabetical list of your sources that goes on a separate page at the end of your project. Each type of source (book, journal article, film, etc.) has its own special citation format. Note these somewhat tricky things:

- Book and article titles have sentence case capitalization. This means the first letter of the title is capitalized, and if there's a colon, the first letter after that is also capitalized.
- Book titles are italicized.
- Article titles do not have quotation marks around them.
- Collections of works (e.g. academic journals) are title case and italicized. Title case means main words are capitalized and any word over five letters. Words like "the," "or," and "a" are not, unless they're the first word of the title.

MY SOURCE IS A BOOK

Oluo, I. (2018). *So you want to talk about race*. New York, NY: Seal Press.

MY BOOK HAS TWO AUTHORS

Durrani, M., & Kalaugher, L. (2016). *Furry logic: The physics of animal life*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury.

MY BOOK IS AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF AN OTHERWISE PRINTED BOOK

Fraser, C. (2017). *Prairie fires: The American dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*. Metropolitan Books. <https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1627792775>

MY BOOK IS ELECTRONIC-ONLY

Cohen, S. (2008). *Animals as disguised symbols in renaissance art*. Brill. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.library.wvu.edu>

MY SOURCE IS A JOURNAL ARTICLE I FOUND ONLINE...

... with DOI (digital object identifier)

Brandmayr, F. (2018). Order and conflict theories of science as competing ideologies. *Social Epistemology*, 32(3), 175-195. doi: 10.1080/02691728.2018.1440023

...without DOI.

Báez, J. C., Pascual-Alayón, P., Ramos, M. L., & Abascal, F. J. (2018). North Atlantic oscillation leads to the differential interannual pattern distribution of sea turtles from tropical Atlantic Ocean, *ICCAT Publications*, 74(7): 3692-3697. <https://www.iccat.int>

MY SOURCE IS A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE I GOT ONLINE.

Goel, V. (2019, January 9). In India, building bridges between life and art. *The New York Times*. <https://nyti.ms/2FkCF9e>

MY SOURCE IS A WEBPAGE.

Drake, N. (2018, December 21). *We saw Earth rise over the moon in 1968. It changed everything*. National Geographic. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2018/12/earthrise-apollo-8-photo-at-50-how-it-changed-the-world/>

MY SOURCE IS A WEBPAGE WITH NO AUTHOR.

WA Department of Natural Resources. (2019, December 18). *Habitat conservation plans*. <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/HCPs>

More questions:

Q. *What if my source doesn't have an author?*

Most scholarly articles and books will have authors, but some articles from websites might not. If you can't find an author, try using the organization as an author.

In-text citation: (FDA, 2018).

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2018, December 21). *FDA approves new treatment for adult patients with rare, life-threatening blood disease*. <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm629022.htm>

You can also use the title of the work if you can't find an author.

In-text citation: ("Why Rats," 2013).

Why rats. (2013). Rat Assistance and Teaching Society. http://www.petrats.org/why_rats.aspx

Q. My source has more than two authors. What does that look like?

In-text: (Fitzgerald et al., 2019)

References: Fitzgerald, M.A., Worthington, K.A., Ling, L.O., & Wu, X.I. (2019). Title example. *Journal Title*, 3(7), 48-59. <https://doi.org/904efui>

Q. I don't have a date anywhere on my source. Can I still use it?

Yep. Just use n.d. (this means "no date") where you'd normally use the date.

Q. My source is just a PDF I found online. How do I cite that?

In-text: (Garcia, 2018).

References: Garcia, A. (n.d.). Title of document. <http://www.theurlthatyouseenow.com>

Q. Two of my sources have the same surname. How will people know who I'm referring to in my text?

Your in-text citation can include the author's first initial, so you can tell your sources apart.

Questions about how to cite sources from authors with the same last name are pretty common (C. Lee, 2018).

Q. I've got a source-within-a-source situation. How do I cite that?

If you're using words or ideas from someone who your source cited, that's called an secondary source. Normally, you'd try to locate the original source, but if you can't find it, be sure to use the original person's name in your text, and then cite it as follows:

In-text: Hwang believes indirect sources are to be avoided (as cited in Ali, 2018).

Q. What does a reference look like for a podcast?

Gossett, G. (Host). (2019, April 1). *Kumis me much?* (Audio podcast). <http://itunes.apple.com>

Q. This handout doesn't answer my question; where can I go for more help?

Try the APA Style Blog at <https://apastyle.org> has many more examples you can view.

Q. Why should I care about citation anyway?

Here are just a few reasons:

- It's important to give credit where credit is due. If you use people's ideas and words, you should identify who they are and acknowledge their work.
- When you incorporate others' opinions and research into your work, it gives you credibility; it shows you've done the research, and know how to partake in the scholarly conversation.
- Proper citation allows other scholars to find your resources if they want to learn more.
- If you fail to properly cite your sources, that could be considered plagiarism, even if your intentions are good.

References

Alvarez, T.O. & Kim, L. (2019). Article title. *Journal Title*, 9(1), 14-20.

<https://doi.org/weufr8u93>

Barlow, Y. (n.d.). This is another title: It has a colon, so check your capitalization style. *Another Journal*, 3(2), 96-102. <https://www.urlshortened.org>

Carlson, W. K., Krueger, U., Anderson, Q.R., & Delgado, B.E. (2017). *Book Title*. Publisher.

Didn't have an author: This is the article title. (2019). *Info Source*. <https://www.urlshortened.org>

Evers, T. (2019, December 19). *Here's the video title* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://youtube.com/398ryhfow>

Farrah, K.H. & Mohammad, A. (2018). *Webpage or article title*. Website title.

<https://urlshortened.org>

Notes:
