APA In-Text Citation

Getting it Right:
Correct In-Text Citation
Avoids Plagiarism!
Academic Writing

“They Say / I Say”

One of the most important skills you learn in college course work is how to engage in conversation with the thoughts and ideas of others (Graff & Birkenstein, 2006, p. IX).
I Say…

• Separate your ideas from the ideas of others

• Properly cite the original source of any ideas to which you refer

• Failure to do so =
Plagiarism
Good Note Taking

Record complete bibliographic information as you read:

Author, title, publisher, place of publication, volume, span of pages, date, etc.

Unless recording a direct quote:

Summarize or paraphrase ideas in your own words

Why?

Aids comprehension

Avoids *unintentional* plagiarism
Remember

• Paraphrasing:
  • More than changing a few words of original text
  • Read & re-read the original then...
  • Carefully express idea in YOUR words & sentences

• Record Source & Page # of the Paraphrased Ideas
  • You may need it later...
In-Text Citations:
(See Sections 6.11-6.21 in APA Manual, 6th ed.)

• APA uses parenthetical author/date method of in-text citation

• Author's Last Name, Year of Publication & (sometimes) Page Numbers appear in text

• Complete reference appears in Reference list at end of paper (there is one exception!)
Direct Quotes
(See Section 6.03)

Direct quotes always require page numbers:

Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?

OR

She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style," but she did not offer an explanation as to why (Jones, 1998, p. 199).
Direct Quotes: 40 Words or More

- Place quote in a free-standing block of text
- Omit quotation marks
- Start quote on new line
- Indent 5-spaces from left margin (indent 5-spaces more at 1st line of subsequent paragraphs within quotation)
- Maintain double-spacing
- Parenthetical citation comes AFTER closing punctuation
Jones's (1998) study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)

Whether or not you agree with the author’s conclusion...
Or

A recent study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help.

(Jones, 1998, p. 199)

Whether or not you agree with the author’s conclusion...
When Summarizing or Paraphrasing

Include a reference to:

- **Author & Year of Publication**
- **Page Number** (encouraged, though not required)

- Be clear:
  - Where the source information begins and ends
  - Use a phrase such as
    - "According to Dr. John R. Lee..." or
    - "The pop diva, Madonna, has consistently maintained that..."
Summarizing or Paraphrasing

For example:

According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners.

Or:

APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199).
Online Resources: APA 6th Ed.

Ohlone College Library Website (Library Guides):
• Sample Works Cited Entries

Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL):
• APA Formatting & Style Guide
• In-Text Citations
• Sample Paper in APA

Diana Hacker’s Research & Documentation: APA
Correct In-Text Citation Avoids Plagiarism!

Get **in-text citation** right... win twice:

Join in the scholarly conversation & avoid plagiarism!