**Common APA Errors**

**Quoting sources directly: Is the direct quotation (actual words in source) more than 40 words?** *(See APA 6th, sections 6.03 – 6.05)*

**Short quotations – Fewer Than 40 Words**

If directly quoting from a work, include the author, year of publication, and page number for the reference (preceded by "p."). Introduce the quotation with a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the date of publication in parentheses.

According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

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

If the author is not named in a signal phrase, place the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

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

**Long quotations – More Than 40 Words**

Place direct quotations that are 40 words or longer in a free-standing block of typewritten lines and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, indented 1/2 inch from the left margin (the same place you would begin a new paragraph). Type the entire quotation on the new margin, and indent the first line of any subsequent paragraph within the quotation 1/2 inch from the new margin. Maintain double-spacing throughout. The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

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)

Above examples from Online Writing Lab, Purdue University  See also APA Style Blog How To
Citing within text – what does that mean and how is it different than references? (See APA 6th, sections 6.11 – 6.16)

Citations appear in the text of the paper and references appear at the end.

References give complete information to give credit to sources and so that a reader can identify and find the sources and read them firsthand.

Citations appear as a shortened form of the reference in the body of your paper and point your reader to your references. For that reason, we sometimes call them in-text citations or simply cites. Citations are almost always composed of an author surname or surnames and a date. The surname(s) that appear in a citation must exactly match those used in the reference. Likewise, the year in the citation matches the year shown in the reference.

In-text citing of works with multiple authors

A Work by Two Authors: Name both authors in the signal phrase or in parentheses each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text and use the ampersand in parentheses.

Research by Wegener and Petty (1994) supports...
(Wegener & Petty, 1994)

A Work by 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 ampersand in parentheses.

Research by Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry and Harlow (1993) supports…
(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)

In et al., et should not be followed by a period.

Six or More Authors: Use the first author's name followed by et al. in the signal phrase or in parentheses.

Harris et al. (2001) argued...
DOI: What is it and how do I find it and do I need to include it? (See APA 6th, section 6.31 for overview and discussion of DOI and section 7.01 – 7.02 for examples for periodicals and books.)

A digital object identifier (DOI) is a permanent identifier given to an electronic document. Unlike a URL, it does not change over time and is not dependent on the electronic document’s location. Journal articles, e-books, and chapters in e-books can have DOIs.

Databases will often include the DOI if one is available. The DOI might also appear in the print version of a journal article so you can look at a PDF of an online article to see if it appears there.

When citing an electronic journal article, a DOI is preferable to a URL.

If no DOI exists and you retrieve an electronic version of the article, include a stable/permalink URL if included. Otherwise, provide the URL of the home page of the journal.

If citing a print journal article, and there is a DOI on the first page of the article, include the DOI in the citation.

After a DOI or URL in a citation, there is no ending punctuation.

See also Online Writing Lab, Purdue University; APA Style Blog DOI Guidelines

Headings – What are the Levels and How Are They Formatted? (See APA 6th, section 3.03)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>APA Headings</th>
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Government Documents (federal, state, county, online or in print) (See APA 6th, section 7.03)

From APA Style Blog: How to Cite a Government Report in APA Style

The basic citation for a government report follows the Author-Date-Title-Source format

**Reference list:**


**In text:**

(Government Author, year)

**Reference list (recommended format):**


**In text (recommended format):**

(National Cancer Institute, 2016)

**How Many Layers of Government Agencies Should Be Listed?** Government agencies frequently list the full hierarchy of departments on their reports. As anyone familiar with bureaucracy knows, this can add up to a lot of layers. For example, the author of the National Cancer Institute report in the example above might be fully written out as follows:

**Reference list (long form, correct but not recommended):**
This template could be used for local, municipal, county, or state governments too---just be sure that the short form is clear, and if you have doubts, include more information.

Including Journal Issue Number Along with Volume Number (See APA 6th, section 6.30 and 7.01)

If each issue of a journal begins with page 1, give the issue number in parentheses directly after the volume number.

If the volumes are continuously paginated (each issue continues the paging from the end of the previous issue), do not include the issue number.

See also APA Style Blog How to Determine Whether a Periodical Is Paginated by Issue