APA In-Text Citation

Northampton Community College
Bethlehem & Monroe Libraries

Examples taken from the
and the NCC Library APA Handout.
Citing Your Sources

• Tells the reader (your instructor) where you found your information

• Is required by most instructors at NCC

• Gives credit back to the original authors

Not Citing Your Sources

• Is plagiarism

• Is a form of academic dishonesty

• Can bring severe penalties, including:
  o Failing your assignment
  o Failing your course
  o Failing out of NCC
As You Research

• Keep careful notes of your sources

• Make printouts or copies of articles or book chapters

• Make sure you collect publication information for each source:
  o Author(s)
  o Chapter title or Article title
  o Book title or Journal/Magazine title
  o Date of publication
  o Publisher and place of publication
  o Page numbers
When to Cite a Source in Your Research Paper

• Always when you quote directly

• When the information is not common knowledge

• Whenever you paraphrase or summarize an author’s words

Try to avoid saying, “Well, I already know a lot about this subject. I don’t need any sources.” That may be true, but the point of a research paper is to gather knowledge from subject experts: people who have been trained in a certain field, worked in a certain field, and have advanced degrees (master’s or doctorate). You’re still learning!
In-text citations show your reader exactly which information came from a research source.

The in-text citation refers reader to the source on the References page.

APA uses the “author-date” method as shown below:

Example: Chronic fatigue syndrome is a disease that often has hidden symptoms (Hacking, 1998).
What happens if you forget to cite a source?

You are committing plagiarism, which is the intentional or unintentional theft of someone else’s work.

Consequences for plagiarism – even if you do it unintentionally – at NCC include:

• failing your assignment,
• failing your course, or
• failing out of NCC.

Be sure to keep track of your sources and cite where appropriate!
Best Practices to Introduce Sources

• Use the author’s last name in the sentence, if possible.

• Show which ideas came from the author by using words like: declares, says, asserts, describes, explains, reports, believes

• Avoid using the word “feels.”
Schweppes (1998) states that the solution sat dormant for several months before any of the employees tested it (p. 743).

If you have an exact page number, it’s a good idea to include it! If you use the author’s name in the sentence, place the date after their name, and the page number at the end of the sentence.
When the solution had sat for several months, the employees finally tested it for bacteria (Schweppes, 1998, p. 743).

If you have an exact page number, it’s a good idea to include it! When using the author’s name at the end in parentheses, include the page number at the end of the citation.
When the solution had sat for several months, the employees finally tested it for bacteria (Schweppes, 1998).
In exchange for that cooperation, authorities have recommended a sentence of 15 years in prison (Hayes, 2009, para. 4).
Example: 2 authors

(1) As Sullivan and Thomas (1998) point out...

(2) The turmoil in the Middle East is the result of politics (Sullivan & Thomas, 1998).
Example: No author

If no author is listed, use the title of the article or book, along with the year.

(1) *Italicize* the title of a periodical or book.
(2) Use “quotation marks” around the title of an article.

(1) The dog ran quickly (*History of Hounds*, 2009).

(2) The language was used properly (“World languages,” 2011).
For More Help

• Light blue APA handout from the Library Reference Desk (also available online at the Library website)

• Publication Manual of the APA, 6th edition

• Learning Center Writing Tutors

• View other APA tutorials:
  o APA Basics
  o APA References

Call the Library Reference Desk at 610-861-5359 or email the librarian team at askthelibrarian@northampton.edu