APA Citation

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Today you will learn

• APA - what is it?
• What needs to be cited
• Basic principles of APA citation
  • In-text citation
  • Reference list
• How to cite when you don’t have an original source in hand
• A few other rules
Why are we doing this?

NOOOOO more APA!!!
What is APA citation?

- American Psychological Association - one of the most common styles
Why are there so many citation styles?

• Tradition
• Different audiences/disciplines
Question: What do you have to cite?

- Movies
- Pamphlets
- Podcasts
- Charts
- Books
- Journal Articles
- YouTube
- TV Shows
- Ebooks
- Interviews
- Images
- Graphics
- Websites
- Photos
Exceptions. You do not have to cite:

- your own ideas
  - It’s MINE. I thought of it FIRST.

- common knowledge
  - Everyone knows THAT.
“You don’t sit down and say ‘I’m going to start plagiarizing now.’ You are just going through different ideas and you read a lot and you take notes, you’re working on something, you go away, you read something, you write it down … I’m a fairly prolific reader, so sometimes I just read ideas that meshed with my own.”

- Chris Spence
Common knowledge:
Information that is widely accessible and widely known

There are four seasons

Cuba is warmer than Halifax

Water freezes at 0 degrees

The Moon orbits the Earth

Fish breathe using gills

Confederation occurred in 1867
Common knowledge: example

1) The Big Bang Theory posits that the universe began billions of years ago with an enormous explosion.

2) The phrase “Big Bang” was coined by Sir Fred Hoyle, an English astronomer. Hoyle used the term to mock the theory, which he disagreed with.

3) According to the Big Bang model, the initial explosion was produced when an infinitely hot, dense center referred to as a singularity, began to expand, giving rise to the particles that eventually formed into our universe.

Example: https://integrity.mit.edu/citing-your-sources/what-common-knowledge
When to cite

Did I come up with this idea myself?

YES. I have lots of good ideas.

NO. Too tired for that.

Is this idea common knowledge?

YES. Everyone knows that water is wet

NO. It was definitely news to me.

Citation!

No citation!
Basic principles. Where to cite

- In-text
- Reference list
(Benson, 2011)

Author, year

Unless it’s a direct quote - then you need a page number.
In-text citation: direct quote

(Benson, 2011, p.89)

Or, if it’s a web document without page numbers, (Benson, 2011, para. 6)
In-text citations. A few points

• What if no year is available?
  (Benson, n.d.)

• What if there is no author?
  (“The pursuit of croissants,” 2011)

• What if the author is an organization?
  (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2011)

• If you have two authors?
  (Ahmed & Williams, 1989)
  OR
  As Ahmed and Williams (1989) noted...
So... many... authors...

- 3-5 authors? (Hallyburton, Buchanan, & Carstens, 2011)
- 6 or more authors? (Zhang, et al., 2014)

(Hallyburton, et al., 2011)

First citation

Subsequent citations
Fun with in-text citation

• Two or more works in the same parentheses?
  (Ahmed & Williams, 1989; Zhang et al, 2009)

• Authors with the same last name?
  (M. Shelley, 1820; P. Shelley, 1819)

• Two or more works by the same author in the same year??!!
  (Coates, 2011a)
  (Coates, 2011b)
Ways to in-text cite

• Direct quote:
  • “The swamp sparrow has been singing the same song for 1,000 years” (Lachlan, 2018, p. 4). OR

• Direct quote with a signal phrase:
  • As Lachlan (2018) found, “The swamp sparrow has been singing the same song for 1,000 years” (p. 4).
Ways to in-text cite

• Paraphrase:
  • In terms of musical repertoire, the swamp sparrow prefers to stick with what it knows (Lachlan, 2018).

• Paraphrase with a signal phrase
  • As Lachlan (2018) shows, the musical repertoire of the swamp sparrow is not exactly dynamic.
It’s usually better to paraphrase.
Paraphrase vs. Direct Quote: 
What’s the difference?

Avoid the Quote Quilt

Quote only when necessary
Beware

Original
• “The more Hansel and Gretel, Cinderella, and Snow White are victimized by the powers of evil, the more sympathy they elicit and the more captivating their triumphs are for children” (Tatar, 1997, p.5).

Paraphrase
• According to Tatar (1997) the more Hansel and Gretel, Cinderella, and Snow White are mistreated by evil characters, the more compassion they evoke and the more enchanting are their conquests for young people.
In-text citations: where do they go?

• Where? After you state the idea (or series of ideas by a single author)

• Long direct quotes (exceeding 40 words) are indented and do not use quotation marks:

Benjamin (1936) claims that

[t]he earliest symptom of a process whose end is the decline of storytelling is the rise of the novel at the beginning of modern times. What distinguishes the novel from the story (and from the epic in a narrower sense) is its essential dependence on the book. (p. 364)
Examples

• As Keen (2011) states, the internet does not know how to forget.
• The internet does not know how to forget (Keen, 2011).
• Keen (2011) notes that “our world is defined by surveillance” (p.13).
• “Our world is defined by surveillance” (Keen, 2011, p.13).
This one has it all...

- The notion that the Internet is “incapable of forgetting” (Keen, 2011, p.13) intersects with another interesting problem -
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The notion that the Internet is “incapable of forgetting” (Keen, 2011, p.13) intersects with another interesting problem - that the Internet is at least indirectly responsible for our diminished attention spans and short term memories (Chan, 2012). We might even say that the Internet has evolved to do our remembering for us.
In-text citation exercise

• Group 1: https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPA1
• Group 2: https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPA2
• Group 3: https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPA3
• Group 4: https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPA4
• Group 5: https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPA5
The dreaded indirect source

- You have in your hand a 2009 book called *Wolves and the wolf myth in American literature* by S.K. Robisch. The book makes reference to a 1992 article by Daniel Harris in *Salmagundi* called “Cuteness,” and you really like one of the ideas Robisch ascribes to Harris. You would like to use it in your paper (and of course cite it).
It depends

Depending on how crucial you think Harris’s article will be to your work, you might need to track it down and use it directly.

Otherwise, you can cite the work in your hand (Robisch) and mention Harris.

... while Harris (as cited in Robisch, 2009) argues that cuteness springs from a careful and deliberately designed aesthetic.

Mention Harris in the text; cite Robisch. No need to include Harris on your reference list.
A reference list by any other name...

• In APA, we call it References
• Alphabetical order
• Hanging indent


Let’s talk about journal articles


- DOI = digital object identifier
- If no DOI, link to the url from which you retrieved the article

APA citation challenge

• In groups of 3, create APA citations for your two assigned items.

• Use the following resources to help you:
  • Dalhousie Libraries’ APA quick guide
  • OWL at Purdue APA citation
  • APA style blog

Type your answer to the “hard” one at https://tinyurl.com/RBCAPACHALLENGE


Podcast episode:


Unpublished document:


Page on a website (treat as “Nonperiodical web document” on OWL at Purdue

Page on a website (treat as “Nonperiodical web document” on OWL at Purdue)


YouTube video

Fun APA rules (because who doesn’t love rules?)

What gets italicized?

- Book titles
- Journal Titles
- Volume number
Fun APA rules (because who doesn’t love rules?)

<table>
<thead>
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Other weird things to keep you guessing

- If you’re discussing an entire website (rather than a page or document on that website), you just need to include the website in your paper, not on your References list.

- Personal communication (conversations, notes you jot down during lectures) does not make the References list either, but gets an in-text citation:

  (S. Mayo, personal communication, February 5, 2018)
Let’s keep ourselves sane when citing in APA

• Dal Libraries Citation Guide:
  • Dalhousie APA quick guide
  • OWL at Purdue website
  • SFU gov docs citation
  • Memorial U videos
• Use the built-in Microsoft Word APA style template
• Take good notes as you research
• Make a RefWorks account to keep track of your citations

http://dal.ca.libguides.com/CitationStyleGuide
Images

- Credible Hulk: https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CMEWShsWUAAlhVV.jpg
- Michelle Obama/Melania Trump: www.cnn.com
- Martin Luther King: http://www.digitaltrends.com/web/martin-luther-king-i-have-a-dream-censorship-internet-freedom-day/
- Internet ecard: http://dimland.blogspot.com/2012/01/dimland-radio-1-7-12-show-notes.html
Thank you!

Questions: lindsay.mcniff@dal.ca