

Handout 36

APA In-Text Documentation

General Guidelines

1. The basic form for in-text documentation is simple:

Author's name, year of publication, abbreviation "p." (for "page") or "pp." (for "pages), and page number(s).

So if you are quoting or paraphrasing an idea from a book by Edmund Wilson, you would cite it like this:

(Wilson, 1971, p.218)

Or

(Wilson, 1971, pp. 218-19)

2. If the author's name is mentioned in the text, you don't need to repeat it in your citation. For example:

Hemingway himself may have disliked this book, as Wilson speculates (1971, p. 218).

(Note that the punctuation mark comes after the parenthetical citation.)

3. If you quote directly, the parenthetical citation comes after the quotation marks but before the concluding punctuation mark. For example:

Wilson speculates that Hemingway himself "recognized [the] badness" of this work and "did not want it published in that form as a book" (1971, p. 218).

A work with one author

(Bolles, 2000, p. 96)

A work with two authors

(Katzenbach & Smith, 1993, p. 45)

A work with three, four, or five authors

(Bradley, Beatty, & Perkins, 1974, p. 70)

A work with more than five authors

If your source has more than five authors, use the abbreviation "et al." after the first author's last name. For example:

(Scully, et al., 1974, p. 89)

A work listed by title

If a work is listed by title in the references page because it has no author's name, then use a shortened version of the title in place of the author's name. For example, if the full title is "Louise Erdrich's Jacklight Cultural and Societal Boundaries in a Native American Woman's Poem" your citation would look like this:
(“Louise Erdrich's Jacklight”, 2008, p. 1)

Citing a source that is quoted in another source

If your source quotes another person or document and you can't find the original source, then you can use the abbreviation "qtd. in" (for "quoted in"). For example:
Stephen Spender, the poet, wrote of great men: "Born of the sun, they travelled a short while toward the sun / And left the vivid air signed with their honour" (qtd. in Wilson, 1971, p. 210).

Two or more works by the same author

1. If the works are not published in the same year then you have no problem. The two citations will be distinguished by the year. For example:

(Wilson, 1971, p. 56)

(Wilson, 1972, p. 87)

2. If the works are published in the same year, the APA format lists them chronologically in the references page. You can differentiate them by lowercase letters. For example, you will include the annotation "1975a" for the first work listed and the annotation "1975b" for the second etc...
(Mahler, 1975c, pp. 185-86)

References:

Heineman, A., & Willis, H. (1988). Writing Term Papers. (3rd ed.). San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
Staff of St. Cloud State University. (2004). APA in-text (parenthetical) documentation. Retrieved November 24, 2008, from <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/research/apaintext.html>