Incorporating Research: In-Text Citation (APA)

Once you have conducted your research and gathered information to include in your essay, you will need to know how to incorporate your research into your writing — in a way that is in integrity with the research and your own original work.

Because you have gathered information from sources that are outside of your own original ideas, you will need to tell the reader where this information came from, and give credit where it is due. You cannot claim that you made up something when you did not. You cannot claim that you wrote something when you did not. This would be considered **plagiarism**. To avoid plagiarism, you must know how to give credit to or acknowledge the person for their words or ideas. To do this, you must **cite your sources.**

Any time you use someone else's words or ideas, you must give credit to that person, whether you quote directly or just paraphrase. Depending upon the type of paper you are writing, or your teacher's directions, you will give credit with a citation either within the body of your paper (called **in-text citation**), with a **References** page at the end.

There are several different methods of incorporating information, words, or ideas that are not your own into any essay with in-text citation. With any in-text citation, the citation is meant to be a quick glance at the source, without interruption to the writing. Full citations are included in the References page at the end of the paper.

To illustrate how this works, let's take a look at the following sentence, which we have gathered from our research. This direct quote was taken from a book written by John Watson:

"It is important that writers give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own, by citing the original source of the words or idea."

> **Important Note:**
> Some exceptions to these examples may apply for sources that are from the Internet (include a URL), lack an author, or have more than one author. Be sure to look up the most recent practices for these exceptions. A good source online is from Purdue University: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/in_text_citations_the_basics.html

Here are some ways to provide in-text citations to be sure you are giving credit to the author:

Paraphrase (Indirect quotation) — In APA format, if you are NOT directly quoting the material, you follow the author-date method of citation.

Any concepts or ideas that are not original must be acknowledged by giving credit in your paper **(Watson, 2018).**

☑ Author and the page number where this information was found is given in parenthesis after the sentence.
☑ No comma after the author's name.
☑ Period goes after the parenthesis.

Direct phrase or word quote — using only one or a few words of the original sentence; use quotation marks around those words only; with a direct quotation, you must include the author, year of publication and page number, preceded by "p."

According Watson (2018), not only must writers follow a certain style but they also must "give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own" **(p. 43).**

☑ Author is mentioned in the student's writing.
☑ Page number only is given at the end.
☑ Period goes after the parenthesis.

Full sentence quote *before* or *after* the full the quotation — author, date, and page are included (include commas after name and date, and "p." before the page number)

Watson (2018) claims, "It is important that writers give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own, by citing the original source of the words or idea" (p. 43).

"It is important that writers give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own, by citing the original source of the words or idea," he argues (Watson, 2018, p. 43).

Full sentence quote with he/she said *dividing* the quote — commas separate the quote

"It is important that writers give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own," he explains, "by citing the original source of the words or idea" (Watson, 2018, p. 43).

Full sentence quote with full sentence introduction to quote — use a colon before the quote

Avoiding plagiarism is crucial: "It is important that writers give credit for any words or ideas they use that are not their own, by citing the original source of the words or idea" (Watson, 2018, p. 43).

Omitting words within a quote — use when a passage is very long; ellipses between (...)

"It is important that writers give credit … by citing the original source of the words or idea" (Watson, 2018, p. 43).