

## APA Parenthetical Documentation

### **Standard Guidelines**

- The American Psychological Association (APA) uses the author-date method of citation. The documentation that appears in the text gives information the reader needs to locate the full citation in the reference list.
- When a work has only **one author**, the author's last name and date of publication are used. (Works with multiple authors will be covered later in this handout.)
  - The author's last name may be placed in the text with the date following in parentheses:

Freire (1994) reinterprets his own pedagogy.

- When the author's name is not included in the text, it must be placed in parentheses.

When an educator's work spans decades, they may use the 20/20 vision of hindsight to interpret it (Freire, 1994, p. 42).

- Quotation marks are used for direct quotations with page numbers following the date:

As Freire (1994) tells us, "The focus of problem-posing education is on the empowerment of the individual learner" (p. 174).

- Punctuation for paraphrased material follows the final parenthesis of the author-date citation, as in the two previous examples.

## **Block Quotations**

- Citations of forty words or more are called block quotations. Such quotations begin on a new line, and the entire block is indented.
- A colon ( : ) is used to introduce a block quotation, and quotation marks are not inserted. Do not forget that block quotations require end-punctuation to precede the citation.

Writing centers adaptation to the communities changing diversity accomplishes several things:

If we are to survive as the population of the United States becomes more diverse, we in writing centers must adapt our services to the changing clientele. We must be proactive in defining models of multicultural centers unless we want others to define what we are and what we might become. (Kilborn, as cited in Barnett & Blumner, 2001, p. 391)

## **Guidelines for Works with Multiple Authors**

- When a work has **two authors**, cite both names every time the source is cited in the text.

The existence of magnetic molecules in the brains of migratory birds has been clearly established (Patch & Grewe, 1994).

- When a work has three or more authors, include only the first author's name and add "et al." after to represent additional authors. Use this format for every citation.

The importance of providing the same information to all examinees cannot be overstated: "All examination [centers] should give all students the same amount of information" (Alderson et al., 1995, p. 36).

- If a reference list includes sources by **two authors with the same last name**, include the first and middle initial of each author in all citations.

D. M. Smith (1994) and P. W. Smith (1995) both reached the same conclusion about parenting styles and child development.

- **Names of groups that serve as authors** are usually spelled out each time they appear in a text citation. However, commonly used acronyms may be used after citing the full group name in the first citation with its acronym in parentheses.

Although “Be Prepared” is a motto we could all live by, the scout slogan “Do a Good Turn Daily” may be more difficult to practice (Boy Scouts of America [BSA], 1990).

- When citing **two or more sources by different authors**, place the authors’ names in parentheses alphabetically.

The hemispheric division of the human brain has been studied from many different perspectives; however, not all researchers agree on the exact functions of each hemisphere (Ellison, 1973; Jaynes, 1979; Mick, 1978).

#### **Guidelines for Non-Print or Non-Recoverable Sources**

- **Personal communications** such as e-mails, interviews, or other unrecoverable sources are cited in the text of the paper. Since the information is not available to the reader, the source is not cited in the reference page. For citing in-text, include the initials and last name of the source, and provide the date the communication occurred.

When Wheeler was asked what mass had to have to become matter, he responded, “That’s it, if we knew that then we would know” (J. A. Wheeler, Personal communication, November 16, 1981).

- When citing recoverable electronic sources from the Internet, use the author-date method.

- For quoted or paraphrased material, include the paragraph number (if-applicable) following the author-date reference.

The wolf population stabilized two years ago (Yellowstone Wolves, 1996, para. 2).

- If **no author** is available, place the first few words of the reference list entry in quotes (most likely the title of the source) before the date in the parentheses.

When the sugar industry grew and plantations multiplied, immigrant laborers were brought to Hawaii largely from China, Portugal, Japan, Korea, Puerto Rico as well as the Philippine Islands (“Hawaiian Customs and Traditions,” 2019).