# **APA Style | QC Writing Center**

**What’s APA?**

The American Psychological Association has its own documentation style and conventions for scholars, particular those in the sciences.

**In-Text Citations**

* When using APA format, follow the author-date method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text.
	+ For example, (Jones, 1998).
* If you are referring to an idea from another work but NOT directly quoting the material or referring to an entire book/article/etcetera, you only have to make reference to the author and year of publication and *not* the page number in your in-text reference.
	+ APA guidelines, however, do encourage including a page range for a summary or paraphrase when it will help the reader find the information in a longer work.
* On the other hand, if you are directly quoting or borrowing from another work, you *should* include the page number at the end of the parenthetical citation. Use the abbreviation “p.” (for one page) or “pp.” (for multiple pages) and use an en dash for page ranges.
	+ For example, you might write (Jones, 1998, p. 199) or (Jones, 1998, pp. 199–201).
* Whether paraphrasing or directly quoting, if you include the author’s last name in the text of the sentence, it should be followed by with the year of publication in parenthesis and neither should be included in the parenthetical citation.
	+ For example, according to **Jones** **(1998)**, "students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).
* Direct quotations from sources that do not contain pages should not reference a page number. Instead, you may reference another logical identifying element, such as paragraph number, section number, table number, or whatever makes sense for your source, such as a chapter and verse number for a religious text.
	+ For example, Jones (1998) found a variety of causes for student dissatisfaction with prevailing citation practices (paras. 4–5).
* Place direct quotations that are 40 words or longer in a free-standing block; start the quotation on a new indented line (as though you were beginning a new paragraph) and indent all subsequent lines to that margin.
	+ Note: Text blocks do not require the use of quotation marks.
	+ Note: The parenthetical citation for a text block should come after the closing punctuation mark.

**References**

* Attach a references list at the end of your paper, center-justified, capitalized, and titled References.
* One complete reference for each source should appear in the references list at the end of the paper, regardless of how each source is cited in the text.

**More Tips**

* Always capitalize proper nouns, including author names and initials.
* When you refer to the title of a source within your paper, capitalize all words (including both words in a compound word and the first word after a dash or colon) that are four letters long or greater within the title of a source.
	+ Exceptions apply to short words that are verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs.