

Quick Guide to APA Parenthetical Documentation

All page numbers refer to the 6th edition of the *APA Publication Manual*

Use parenthetical references whenever you cite information from a source, whether you quote from the source directly, summarize or paraphrase it in your own words, or refer to an idea.

What Goes In the Parenthesis? (Main citation elements) Author(s) and year source was published. If no author is listed, use the article title. See p. 177 of the *Publication Manual* for a chart of examples. Include page #s if citing a specific part of the source.

Where Does it Go in the Sentence? (Placement)

Place your citation as close as possible to the information you are citing. Only include information in the parenthesis that isn't already in the sentence.

According to Jones (2009), the chicken made a choice to cross the street.

OR

A new study (Jones, 2009) determined that the chicken decided to cross the street.

OR

"The chicken crossed the road to get to the other side" (Jones, 2009, p. 174).

When to use page numbers?

When citing a specific part of a source (pp. 170-172; 179)

If you quote directly from the source, include page number(s). When paraphrasing information or referring to an idea from your source, APA encourages you to give page or paragraph numbers (p. 171). Abbreviate the word "page" (p. or pp.).

No page numbers? Use paragraph numbers and/or headings (para.) instead if given (171-172). If source does not provide paragraph numbers, you can "count paragraphs down from the beginning of the document."*

Source with page #'s

Experts believe that the chicken crossed the road (Daniels, 2009, pp. 3-4).

Online source, no page #'s but with paragraphs

Experts believe that the chicken wanted to cross the road (Douglas, 2007, para. 4).

No page or paragraph numbers? Use the section heading and paragraph number (counted down from the beginning of that section heading). If you cannot use a heading, use a shortened form of the section title in double quotation marks ("). Count paragraphs down from the beginning of that section.

Online source with section (no page numbers given) with section labels

One source gives a different theory about the chicken (Davis, 2009, Conclusion section, para. 3).

Online source, (no page numbers given), with section titles

One source gives a different theory about the chicken (Davis, 2009, "Overview of Chickens," para. 5). *Original section title: "Overview of Chickens and the Roads They Cross."*

How Many Authors Does the Source Have?

Remember to include page #s when citing a specific part of your source (see other side)

One Author (APA p. 175-176)

1 author:

Chickens have been known to cross roads (Jordan, 2013).

Jordan (2001) discussed how chickens like to cross roads.

Two Authors (APA p. 175-176)

If a source has two authors, use an ampersand (&) between the names in the parenthesis. Use “and” when referring to the authors in the text of your paper. Include both names every time you cite the source.

2 authors:

The chicken crossed the road (Smith & Jones, 2001).

Smith and Jones (2001) also discovered that the chicken crossed the road.

Three to Five Authors (APA p. 175-176)

When a source has **three, four, or five authors**, cite all authors for the first parenthetical reference. For the second and any subsequent citations, list the first author followed by *et al.* (Latin for “and others”).

3-5 authors:

1st time source is referenced:

The chicken was forced to cross the road (Adams, Smith, & Jones, 2009).

Subsequent citations:

Adams et al. (2009) discovered who forced the chicken to cross the road.

There are many reasons why the chicken was forced to cross the road (Adams et al., 2009).

Six or More Authors (APA p. 175-177)

When a source has **six or more** authors, include just the first author’s last name, followed by *et al.*

6 or more authors:

The chicken had definitely crossed the road (Letterman et al., 2001).

Letterman et al. (2001) had also discovered that the chicken crossed the road.

No Author (APA 176)

If a source has no author and is listed on the reference page by its title, use the first few words of the title and the year. Put double quotation marks (“”) around article or chapter titles and italicize periodical and book titles. Unlike the reference page, the main words of the title should be capitalized.

Book, no author given

The chicken made a conscious decision to cross the road (*The Big Book of Chickens*, 2009).

Journal article, no author given

The chicken did not want to cross the road (“The Case of the Chicken and the Road,” 2007).

*From APA’s official website <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/cite-website-material.aspx>

This is a brief overview. For more information, please see the *APA Publication Manual*, 6th ed., pp. 169-179.

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