

Quick Guide to APA Parenthetical Documentation

All page #'s 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.

Main citation elements

Include the author(s) (or article title if no author is give) and the year the source was published. The *Publication Manual* has a great chart on page 177 that has different examples.

If you quote directly from the source, include the page number(s). For online sources without page numbers, use paragraph numbers and/or headings (171-172). When paraphrasing information or referring to an idea from your source, APA encourages you to provide page or paragraph numbers (p. 171).

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.

The citation can also be placed at the end of a sentence, before the period.

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

Source with 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 within 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.

Source with three to five authors (APA p. 175-176)

When a source has **three, four, or five authors**, cite all the 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 several reasons why the chicken was forced to cross the road (Adams et al., 2009).

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

Source with 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.

Source with no author (APA 176)

If a source does not have an 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 in the parenthetical citation.

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).

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

When citing a specific part of a source, include page, figure, chapter, table or equation information. If quoting word for word from your source, always include page numbers. Abbreviate the word "page" (p. or pp.) but not "chapter." When paraphrasing information or referring to an idea from your source, APA encourages you to provide page or paragraph numbers (APA, 171).

For electronic sources that do not have page numbers, use paragraph numbers (para.) instead if given.

Source with page #'s

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

Online source, no page #'s but with labeled paragraphs

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

If a source has neither page or paragraph numbers, use the section heading and paragraph number. If you cannot use a heading, use a shortened form of the section title in double quotation marks ("").

Online source with section, no page #'s or paragraph #'s given with section labels

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

Online source, no page #'s or paragraph #'s 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."*