

A Brief Primer to Citing Sources in APA Style

Each source that you use must have two citations: an **in-text citation** and a **reference page citation**. Both citations refer to the same source. The in-text citation is abbreviated. The full citation for the source appears only on your reference page at the end.

In-Text Citations

Whether you use an author's exact words (*quotation*) or put the information in your own words (*summary*), you must provide an **in-text citation** to indicate where the information or words came from.

In-Text Citation for a Direct Quote

Original Text: (from Rachel Adele, *The Media Against Women*, 1999)

"Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media have made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women."

Direct Quote Used in Your Paper:

(*APA Style*)

According to Adele (1999), "Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media have made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women" (p. 12).

Please notice three things:

1. A signal phrase like "According to ..." is always used to introduce a direct quote.
2. The author's last name together with (1999) is an in-text citation and refers to the source listed alphabetically on the last page of your paper.
3. The period goes after the parenthesis at the end of the sentence.

In-Text Citation for a Summary (Your Own Words)

Original Text: (from Rachel Adele, *The Media Against Women*, 1999)

"Deaths from colon cancer occur twice as often in women as in men, but the media has made it seem that breast cancer is the number one killer of women."

Your Words in Your Paper:

(*APA Style*)

Although twice as many women die from colon cancer as men, the media choose to focus on breast cancer as the main threat to women (Adele, 1999).

Not a Book? Not a Problem

The example in-text citations above are for a book. Increasingly, today's research papers include more electronic sources than print ones. No problem. Use the same principle.

Not an Author? Not a Problem

If the source you are using does not list an author, simply use the title of the source as a substitute. If the title is more than five words, abbreviate it.

Last Page References

Since you're using APA, the last page of your paper is called "References"--a word which is centered on the last page.

Citation machines and other software automatically produce the format for in-text citations and entries on the "References" page. All you have to know is the kind of source you used (book, web site, magazine). After using the citation machine, be sure to check your reference citation for accuracy against the model formats in the APA section of your handbook.

Automatic APA Citations

Some of the software that will automatically format sources for in-text citations and your references page is free:

<http://www.citationmachine.net>

(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must always choose "Work from a subscription service" format).

I have created a short instructional video on using the citationmachine.net:

<http://www.peakwriting.com/VIDS/CiteMachLM/CiteMachLM.html>

Other free citation machines include:

http://www.studentabc.com/citation_machine

(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must always choose "Article from a database or subscription" format).

<http://webapps.calvin.edu/knightcite/index.php>

(Note: If you use a source from the school's online library, you must choose "yes" to the question "Was the resource found using a database?")

The best citation machine currently costs **\$34.95, but comes from the authority on APA style, the American Psychological Association.**

<http://www.apastyle.org/stylehelper/ver3/>