**In-text citations:** How to give credit to (cite) sources inside your paper (the narrative)  
(APA style – American Psychological Association)

APA style uses the author and date when citing sources within the text/narrative, whether you’re paraphrasing or making a direct quotation.


- If you include the author’s name in the narrative you only need to include the year in parentheses.  
  Ex. Walker (2000) compared reaction times…..

- If you don’t include the author’s name in the narrative then you put it and the year in parentheses.  
  Ex. In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000)

**Paraphrasing one work by multiple authors:**

If your article, book or web site has 1 or 2 authors you must always use both of them in your in-text citations.  
Ex. …as has been shown (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1989).

If your work has 3, 4, or 5 authors you must cite all the authors for the first in-text citation.  
If you cite that work again you only list the first author and et al.  
Ex. this was found to be true (Wasserstein, Zappula, Rosen, Gerstman, & Rock, 1994)  
Ex. The testing was concluded in 1985 (Wasserstein et al., 1994).

If your work has 6 or more authors you must cite the first author, followed by et al. (not italicized).  
Ex. Davis et al. (1999) found that…  
Ex. According to the study (Davis et al., 1999)

**Direct quotations:**

If you use a direct quotation or image in your paper, you must state what page (if an article) or paragraph (if a web site) the quotation or image came from.  
Ex. (“………”. Myers, 2000, ¶ 5)

**Short in-text samples:**

In her article on two nineteenth-century women preachers, Bizzell (2006) argues that “a conjunction between the female sex and moral activism is traditional in Methodism.” (p. 379).

One writer on nineteenth-century women preachers argues that “a conjunction between the female sex and moral activism is traditional in Methodism” (Bizzell, 2006, p. 379).

To “watch the rejects crash and burn” is why we watch *American Idol*, according to *RollingStone* magazine (“Idol Worship,” 2007).

As “much an activist as an analytical method” is how two online reviewers describe McAllister’s approach to computer games (Moeller & Moberly, 2006).
References


