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APA Style 7th Edition formatting and style guide

In-Text Citations

<http://www.swinburne.edu.my/library>

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In-Text citation Styles

In-text citations provide the author and date of publication of a source. This allows the reader to locate the corresponding entry in the reference list at the end of the paper.

In-text citations have two formats: parenthetical and narrative.

- In **parenthetical citations**, the author name and publication date appear in parentheses.
- In **narrative citations**, the author name is incorporated into the text as part of the sentence and the year follows in parentheses.

There are few exceptions to this rule, including:

- Personal communications, which are unrecoverable sources and are cited in the text only.
- General mentions of whole websites or periodicals and common software or apps in the text do not require a citation or reference list entry.
- The source of an epigraph does not usually appear in the reference list.
- Quotations from research participants can be presented and discussed in the text but do not need citations or reference list entries.

Parenthetical Citations (also known as Bracketed Citations)

Both the author and the date, separated by comma, appear in parentheses for a parenthetical citation. A parenthetical citation can appear within or at the end of a sentence.

For example;

Falsely balanced news coverage can distort the public's perception of expert consensus on an issue (Koehler, 2016).

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If other text appears with the parenthetical citation, use commas around the year.

(see Koehler, 2016, for more detail).

When text and a citation appear together in parentheses, use a semicolon to separate the citation from the text; do not use parentheses within parentheses.

(e.g., falsely balanced news coverage; Koehler, 2016).

Narrative Citations (also known as Contextual Citations)

The author's surname appears in running text, and the date appears in parentheses immediately after the author's name for a narrative citation. The author's name can be included in the sentence in any place it makes sense.

For example;

Koehler (2016) noted the dangers of falsely balanced news coverage.

In rare cases, the author and date might both appear in the narrative. In this case, do not use parentheses.

In 2016, Koehler noted the dangers of falsely balanced news coverage.

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EXAMPLES OF IN-TEXT CITATIONS		
Author type	Parenthetical citation (in parentheses/ bracket)	Narrative citation (part of the sentences)
One author	(Stroud, 2020)	Stroud (2020)
Two authors	(Salas & D'Agostino, 2020)	Salas and D'Agostino (2020)
Three or more authors	(Martin et al., 2020)	Martin et al. (2020)
Group author with abbreviation First citation Subsequent citations	(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2020) (NIMH, 2020)	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2020) NIMH (2020)
Group author without abbreviation	(Swinburne University, 2023)	Swinburne University (2023)
Generative AI	(OpenAI, 2023)	OpenAI (2023)
Multiple works	(Adams et al., 2019; Shumway & Shulman, 2015; Westinghouse, 2017)	Adams et al. (2019), Shumway and Shulman (2015) and Westinghouse (2017)
Abbreviated Diagnostic manual (DSM, ICD)	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> (5th ed.; <i>DSM-5</i> ; American Psychiatric Association, 2013) <i>International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems</i> (11th ed.; <i>ICD-11</i> ; World Health Organization, 2019)	American Psychiatric Association's (2013) <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> (5th ed.; <i>DSM-5</i>) World Health Organization's (2019) <i>International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems</i> (11th ed.; <i>ICD-11</i>)

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	Subsequent Citations (American Psychiatric Association, 2013; World Health Organization, 2019)	Subsequent Citations American Psychiatric Association (2013) and World Health Organization (2019)
Religious work	(<i>King James Bible</i> , 1769/2017; <i>The Qur'an</i> , 2004; <i>The Torah</i> , 1962/2015)	<i>King James Bible</i> (1769/2017), <i>The Qur'an</i> (2004), and <i>The Torah</i> (1962/2015)
Ancient Greek or Roman work	(Aristotle, ca. 350 B.C.E./1994)	Aristotle (ca. 350 B.C.E./1994)
Unknown or Anonymous Author *If the title of the work is italicized in the reference list, also italicize the title in the in-text citation. *If the title of the work is not italicized in the reference list, use double quotation marks around the title in the in-text citation. *Capitalize titles in in-text citations using title case, even though sentence case is used in the reference list entry.	No author: (<i>The Future of Entrepreneurship</i> , 2018) ("Towards a Psychology of Collective Memory," 2015) Anonymous: (Anonymous, 2016)	No author: <i>The Future of Entrepreneurship</i> (2018) "Towards a Psychology of Collective Memory" (2015) Anonymous: Anonymous (2016)
Works with the Same Author and Same Date 1. Multiple references have identical author (or no authors) and publication year, include lowercase letter after the year. 2. Multiple works with three or more authors with the same first author and the same publication year. To avoid ambiguity, write out	(LaBlanc & Ibarra, 2019a) (LaBlanc & Ibarra, 2019b) (Kapoor, Bloom, Montez, et al., 2017) (Kapoor, Bloom, Zucker, et al., 2017)	LaBlanc and Ibarra (2019a) LaBlanc and Ibarra (2019b) Kapoor, Bloom, Montez, et al. (2017) Kapoor, Bloom, Zucker, et al. (2017)

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as many names as needed to distinguish the reference. 3. Because "et al." is plural, it cannot stand for only one name. In cases where only the final author is different, spell out all names in every citation.	(Hasan, Liang, Kahn, & Jones-Miller, 2015) (Hasan, Liang, Kahn, & Weintraub, 2015)	Hasan, Liang, Kahn, and Jones-Miller (2015) Hasan, Liang, Kahn, and Weintraub (2015)
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How to Create a Reference When Information is Missing			
Missing element	Solution	Template	
		Reference List Entry	In-text citation
Nothing -- all elements are present	Provide the author, date, title and source of the work.	Author. (Date). Title. Source. Example: <i>Smith, J. (2021). Exploring the impact of digital literacy. TechWorld.</i>	(Author, year) Author (year) Example: (Smith, 2021) Smith (2021)
Author	Provide the title, date, and source.	Title. (Date). Source. Example: <i>The Complete Guide to the Night Sky. (2023). Skyward Books.</i>	(Title, year) Title (year) Example: (Complete Guide to the Night Sky, 2023) The Complete Guide to the Night Sky (2023)
Date	Provide the author, write "n.d." for "no date." and then provide the title and source.	Author. (n.d.). Title. Source. Example: <i>Burgess, R. (n.d.). Rethinking global health: Framework of power. Routledge.</i>	(Author, n.d.) Author (n.d.) Example: (Burgess, n.d.) Burgess (n.d.)
Title	Provide the author and date, describe the work in square brackets, and then provide the source.	Author. (Date). [Description of work]. Source. Example: <i>Harpel, P. (2025) [Photograph of a dark sky above trees with glowing wisps.]. Unsplash.com</i>	(Author, year) Author (year) Example: (Harpel, 2025) Harpel (2025)

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Author and date	Provide the title, write "n.d." for "no date," and then provide source.	Title. (n.d.). Source. Example: <i>Feminist therapy</i> . (n.d.). Psychology Today. https://xxxxxxx	(Title, n.d.) Title (n.d.) Example: (Feminist therapy, n.d.) <i>Feminist therapy</i> (n.d.)
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How to Create a Reference When Information is Missing.. (Cont.)			
Missing element	Solution	Template	
		Reference List Entry	In-text citation
Author and title	Describe the work in square brackets, and then provide the date and source.	[Description of work]. (Date). Source. Example: [Photograph]. (2021). Flickr.	([Description of work], year) [Description of work], (year) Example: ([Photograph], 2021) [Photograph], (2021)
Date and title	Provide the author, write “n.d.” for “no date.” describe the work in square brackets, and then provide the source.	Author. (n.d.). [Description of work]. Source. Example: Denali National Park and Preserve. (n.d.). [Photograph]. Unsplash.	(Author, n.d.) Author (n.d.) Example: (Denali National Park and Preserve, n.d.) Denali National Park and Preserve (n.d.)
Author, date, and title	Describe the work in square brackets, write “n.d.” for “no date.” and then provide the source.	[Description of work]. (n.d.). Source. Example: [Photograph]. (n.d.). Shutterstock.	([Description of work], n.d.) [Description of work], (n.d.) Example: ([Photograph], n.d.) [Photograph], (n.d.)
Source	Cite as a personal communication or find another work to cite. (ex: emails, text messages, online chats, direct messages, personal interviews, telephone conversations, live speeches, memos, letters, unrecorded class-room lecturers, online bulletin board and so on)	No reference list entry	(Statement of responsibility, personal communication, month day, year) Statement of responsibility, (personal communication, month day, year) Example: (Dean, personal communication, September 9, 2024)

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			Dean, (personal communication, September 9, 2024)
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Secondary sources (Indirect citation)

A secondary source refers to content first reported in another source.

Follow these directions when citing a secondary source:

- In the reference list, provide an entry for the secondary source that you used.
- In the text, identify the primary source and write "as cited in" the secondary source that you used.

Example 1:	Example 2:
If you read a work by Roper (2014) in which Einstein (1920) was cited, and you could not read Einstein's work yourself, cite Einstein's work as the original source, followed by Roper's work as the secondary source. Only Roper's work appears in the reference list. For example: Parenthetical citation: ...as was found (Einstein, 1920, as cited in Roper, 2015, p. 14) Narrative citation: Einstein (1920, as cited in Roper, 2015, p. 14) found that...	If the year of the primary source is unknown, omit it from the in-text citation. For example: Narrative citation: Allport's diary (as cited in Nicholson, 2003)

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