**APA Citation Cheat Sheet**

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS**

The purpose of in-text citations is to give authors’ credit for their original ideas when you mention their ideas in your paper. In-text citations are used at the end of a sentence whenever you paraphrase or directly quote information from a source in that sentence.

- Within a set of parentheses, put the author’s last name.
- Put a comma and then the year of publication.
- Include the page number or paragraph number (if pages are not numbered) after another comma.
- If two authors are listed, use both last names with every in-text citation. If three to five authors are listed, list all last names in the first citation, but include only the first author’s last name followed by “et al.” for each subsequent citation. If there are six or more authors, list only the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”.
- If no author is listed, use a shortened title of the article within quotation marks.
- Always put the period after the parentheses (unless block quoting).

**Note:** If you include the author’s last name or the year of publication directly in the sentence, you do not need to include that same information in the parenthetical citation.

**IN-TEXT CITATION EXAMPLES:**

1. **SINGLE AUTHOR WITH GIVEN DATE AND PAGE NUMBER (THREE VARIANTS):**

   - 72% of college students struggle with proper citations (Johnson, 2008, pp. 68-69).
   - OR In 2008, Johnson found … citations (pp. 68-69).

2. **MULTIPLE AUTHORS WITH GIVEN DATE AND PAGE NUMBERS:**

   **FIRST** “Writing is a crucial life skill no matter a student’s chosen field” (Roberts, Donaldson & Weston, 2011, p. 11).
   **THEN** “Today’s high school students are being taught less about how to write than were previous generations” (Roberts et al., 2011, p. 15).

3. **WEBPAGE WITH NO AUTHOR OR DATE AND PARAGRAPH NUMBER INSTEAD OF PAGE NUMBER:**

   Students who sought the help of a tutor saw an average of 15% improvement in their essay scores (“College-Level Essays,” n.d., para. 6).
REFERENCES

The purpose of the References page is to clearly lay out for the reader what sources you used for the paper. Readers should be easily able to locate sources on their own based on the information you give in the References. Properly organizing your References page also allows your readers to easily check between your in-text citations and the complete citations on the References page while reading.

♦ Center “References” at the top of a new page.
♦ When available, all references should include author name(s), publication date, title of the work, and publication information.
♦ For articles, the general format is:
♦ For webpages, the general format is:
♦ For books, the general format is:
  Author, A. A. (year). Title of book. Location: Publisher.
♦ Indent all lines of the citation after the first line. (The first line of a citation is not indented, but if the citation bleeds onto subsequent lines, all lines after the first are. This is called a hanging indent.)
♦ Alphabetize the citations from A-Z by the first word of the citation (usually the author’s last name).

Note: If working with sources in a database, you may find a “Cite” button which will bring up a list of the article’s citation in different formats. You may use the APA citation given here, but you are still responsible for making sure your citation is correct and complete.

REFERENCE LIST EXAMPLES:

1. JOURNAL ARTICLE WITH TWO AUTHORS:

2. WEBSITE WITH NO AUTHOR AND NO DATE:

3. CHAPTER OF A PRINTED BOOK WITH ONE AUTHOR:

4. PRINTED BOOK WITH THREE AUTHORS:

For specific questions not addressed in this handout, please visit the LETU Writing Center, email WritingCenter@letu.edu, or consult the PurdueOWL APA formatting and style guide: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html