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ASA In-Text Citations

In-Text Citations

References in the main text:

Include the last name of the author and the year of publication. In order to avoid plagiarism (inappropriately using another person's words without proper citation), you must directly quote verbatim, using quotation marks and the name, date, and page number in parentheses, or you must paraphrase and mention the source of the idea (name and date only).

Use page numbers only when you quote an author's words:

Sociological analysis of cities is "critical to achieving far-reaching social change in this century," according to Duncan (1959:71).

If the author's name is in the text,

follow the name with the year in parentheses:

According to Duncan (1959), sociological analysis of cities is critical to creating positive social change in America.

If the author's name is *not* in the text,

enclose both the last name and year in parentheses:

Sociological analysis of cities is critical to creating social change (Duncan 1959).

For joint authors, use both last names:

(Martin and Bailey 1988)

For institutional authorship, supply minimum identification in the text and the complete citation under References:

(U.S. Bureau of the Census 1963:117)

Separate a series of references with a semicolon:

(Burgess 1968; Maxwell 1971)

If there is no date for a publication, use "n.d." in place of the year.

For unpublished materials, use "forthcoming" to indicate material scheduled for publication. For dissertations and unpublished papers, cite the date:

(Smith, forthcoming)

For works with three authors, list all last names in the first citation in the text; thereafter use “et al”:

(Carr, Smith, and Jones 1962), then (Carr et al. 1962)

For more than three authors, use “et al.” throughout.

Block quotations

Block quotations are presented in smaller type and are set off in a separate, indented paragraph. They are not enclosed in quotation marks:

As stated by Wright and Jacobs (1994):

The variation in men's earnings relative to their peers in the labor force was not a reliable predictor of men's attrition. This finding is inconsistent with the prediction that declines in earnings are responsible for male flight from feminizing occupations. (P. 531).

Paraphrasing

When using an author's ideas or re-phrasing his or her words, even though not quoting directly, document the source. Use the same format as shown above for the citations in text, but omit the page number.

...whenever it occurred as reported in another study by Pain (2004).

...whenever it occurred (Pain 2004).

The above is based on the *American Sociological Association Style Guide* (2007) and serves as a quick reference for students preparing sociology papers. Many of the examples are taken directly from the ASA student-focused website which was based on the 1997 edition but entries have been altered to show changes recommended in the 2007 edition.