APA In-Paragraph Citations

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Whenever you quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from a source, you have to let the reader know where that information came from. To do this, you need an entry on the References page, following APA format, with all the required information. In addition, you need to let the reader know in the body of the paper where the information came from. To do this, you use an in-paragraph citation. This acts as a clue to let the reader know which entry on the References page has all of the information needed if the reader wanted to find the original source and read it for his or herself.

For a direct quote, APA format requires the in-paragraph citation needs to include the author(s) last name(s), year of publication, and page number.

“Puzzled by the poor performance of talented students on a routine exercise involving correcting bibliographic citations, we undertook a study of the reasons for these challenges” (Van Note Chism & Weerkoon, 2012, p. 27).

Another way of doing this is to mention the authors before the quotation. However, according to APA format, when you mention the name of an author, you immediately have to give the date of the study you are referring to. If that is the case, you put the page number only as the in-paragraph citation.

According to Van Note Chism and Weerkoon (2012), “Puzzled by the poor performance of talented students on a routine exercise involving correcting bibliographic citations, we undertook a study of the reasons for these challenges” (p. 27).

When paraphrasing or summarizing, according to APA format, you do not have to include the page number.

The authors were surprised the students were having difficulties because it was ruled out their errors were due to the factors of laziness or motivation on the part of the students (Van Note Chism & Weerakoon, 2012).

If there is no author listed, you use the title of the article in quotation marks in place of the author’s last name. **NOTE: The entry on the References page would NOT have the title in quotation marks and would have only the first letter of the first word capitalized.**

In addition, it has been proven that bullying takes a toll academically on victims. For example, “It can cause difficulty in concentration and decrease their ability to focus, which affects their ability to remember things they have learned” (“What are the Effects of Bullying,” 2014).

Quotes that are shorter than 40 words should be integrated into the text of your paper. Quotes that are 40 or more words should be in block quotation format. Block quotes are indented the same amount as the beginning line of a new paragraph. You do not put quotation marks around a block quote. In addition, the period goes at the end of the quote and before the citation.

According Spivak and Prothrow-Stith (2001) as quoted in Jordan and Austin (2012),

Individuals with a history of bullying had a four-fold increase in criminal behavior by the time they reached their mid 20s. The majority of former bullies had at least one conviction, and more than a third had multiple convictions. Those formerly bullied have been found to have higher rates of depression and poor self-esteem. (p. 442)