

Citing Sources / Avoiding Plagiarism: APA Format

Terms to Know

Quotation: using the exact words from a source; requires quotation marks (“ ”), an in-text citation, and should match with an entry in the List of References

Paraphrase: writing an idea from a source in your own words and with a new sentence structure; requires an in-text citation and should match with an entry in the List of References

Summary: condenses a long passage from a source using your own words and a new sentence structure; requires an in-text citation and should match with an entry in the list of References

Signal Phrase: a transitional phrase or clause that lets the reader know he/she is about to read borrowed information (quote, paraphrase, or summary); usually includes the author’s name, provides the year of publication in parentheses, and establishes a context for the borrowed information

Parenthetical In-Text Citations: usually, you put the page number (preceded by “p.”) in parentheses after the quote. A citation with the page number is not required for a paraphrase or summary unless it would help the reader find the information in a long work. ***If a source is cited in the paper, it needs to be included in the List of References.*** See backside of the library’s APA Citation Guide (Parenthetical References) for variations on this format

List of References: provides the publication information about a source in case a reader would like to locate sources used in a paper. ***If a source has been included in the List of References, it needs to be cited at least once in the paper***

Sample Quote, Paraphrase, Summary, and In-Text Citations¹

Quote with authors and year given in signal phrase, page number in parenthetical citation:

As researchers Yanovski and Yanovski (2002) have explained, obesity was once considered “either a moral failing or evidence of underlying psychopathology” (p. 592).

Paraphrase with organization as author, year, and page number in parentheses:

Obesity puts children at risk for a number of medical complications, including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, and orthopedic problems (Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2004, p. 1).

Summary with organization as author and year given signal phrase, page number in parentheses:

Roche Laboratories (2003), maker of orlistat, released results of a one-year study testing the drug on 539 obese adolescents, aged 12-16. The drug, which promotes weight loss by blocking fat absorption in the large intestine, showed some effectiveness in adolescents: an average loss of 1.3 kg, or roughly 3 pounds, for subjects taking orlistat for one year, as opposed to an average gain of 0.67 kg, or 1.5 pounds, for the control group (pp. 8-9).

Sample List of References (reverse)

¹ These sample quotes and paraphrases come from a sample student paper available in PDF format at <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/pdf/Hacker-Mira-APA-2010.pdf>

References

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2004, February). *The role of media in childhood obesity*. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/7030.cfm>

Roche Laboratories. (2003, December). *Xenical (orlistat) capsules: Complete product information*. Retrieved from <http://www.rocheusa.com/products/xenical/pi.pdf>

Yanovski, S.Z., & Yanovski, J.A. (2002). Drug therapy: Obesity. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 346, 591-602.

List of References General Format

- The list of References should begin on a new page at the end of the paper (shortcut: **Ctrl + Enter**)
- A heading of References is centered at the top of the page but is not bolded, underlined, or italicized
- The entire page is double-spaced with no “extra” space between entries
- The sources go in alphabetical order by author’s last name or by title if no author is given. If the list includes two or more sources by the same author(s), arrange the sources by year, earliest first.
- The first line of an entry is aligned with the left-hand margin; extra lines should be indented by ½” (hanging indent; shortcut: **Ctrl + T**)
- Invert all authors’ names and use initials instead of first names, separated with commas
- Italicize titles and subtitles of books; do not italicize or use quotation marks around titles of articles. Only the first word of and proper nouns in the title should be capitalized
- Abbreviations for “page” and “pages” (“p.” and “pp.”) are used before page numbers of newspaper articles and articles in edited books but not before page numbers of articles in magazines and scholarly journals

Format for Individual Sources

The format for an individual source will depend on the type of source (book, anthology, newspaper article, journal article, web site, television show, etc.). The APA Citation Guide from the library covers some of the more commonly used sources, but for a complete list of sources and their formats, visit:

http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch06_o.html

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

These web sites provide information about in-text citations, APA manuscript format, and sample research papers.