



In-Text Citations

In-text citations are citations used by writers who are referring to other people's words; these citations may differ from one citation format to another. However, they will all lead a reader to the works cited (or references) and give original authors credit for their content.

When do you need in-text citations?

When writing academic essays, students are warned to avoid plagiarism and to practice academic integrity. One way of doing these two things is by using in-text citations. In-text citations are to be used when summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting another author or organization directly. By citing other authors in-text, you will be providing your reader with valuable information while simultaneously giving credit to the author you have cited.

How to write an in-text citation:

Different citation styles have different ways of citing material in-text. For example, MLA style citations value the author more than anything else; alternatively, APA style citations value when the cited information was written.

MLA In-Text Citations:

In Winthrop University's *Rules for Writers*, the authors, Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers, state, "MLA recommends in-text citations that refer readers to a list of works cited. A typical in-text citation names the author of the source, often in a signal phrase, and gives a page number in parentheses" (458). Per the guidelines set in this quote, the authors were introduced in a signal phrase, and the page number was given in parentheses at the end.

However, if the author's name is not introduced in a signal phrase, then the author's last name must be provided in the parentheses with the page number (Hacker et al. 460). This paraphrasing consisted of two authors; if there is only one, then you will omit the "et al."

APA In-Text Citations:

According to *Rules for Writers*, Hacker and Sommers (2016) say, "APA's in-text citations provide the author's last name and the year of publication, usually before the cited material, and a page number in the parentheses directly after the cited material" (p. 547). Yet again, per the guidelines set in this quote, the authors' last names were presented, along with the year of publication, before the cited material, and the page number was included immediately following.

If paraphrasing or summarizing, you should include the author's last name, year, and page number in parentheses following but only if you did not introduce them in a signal phrase (Hacker and Sommers, 2016, p. 548).

For more specific questions regarding in-text citations, please visit the Writing Center where tutors will address and explain any questions you have pertaining to in-text citations regarding MLA, APA, Chicago, ASPA, and CSE.