

APA In-text Citations

When integrating sources into a paper, remember that it's *your* ideas your instructors want to read. If the information is not your own idea, or is not common knowledge, you need to cite a source. As a rule of thumb, don't use a quote when you could use a paraphrase or summary.

Your words & ideas > Summary > Paraphrase > Quotation.

What if it's common knowledge?

There is some information you can assume your readers know without citing it (for example, the location of the White House). **To decide what is common knowledge, think about the audience your paper is aimed at.** Think about who you're writing for and whether an idea will be common knowledge to them.

What if I summarize a whole article or book?

- Yep, this requires a citation. Even if you are summing up a whole book or article in a sentence or two, ultimately you are using someone else's knowledge and ideas. Put your citation at the end of the summary. APA does not require page numbers for a summary.

Example (APA format):

Summary with in-text citation:

Hanna-Attisha finds that poverty is as toxic to children as the lead in the water in Flint, Michigan and towns like it across the United States (Hanna-Attisha, 2017).

References Citation:

Hanna-Attisha, M. (2017) Flint kids: Tragic, resilient, and exemplary. *American Journal of Public Health*, 107 (5), 651-652. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2017.303732.

What if I paraphrase?

- Even if you summarize or rephrase someone else's work, you still need to cite it. It isn't about the words, it's about the idea. And Paraphrase ≠ replace each word using a thesaurus.

Example (APA format):

Original:

"Much research has been published on sacred space in the medieval world, the majority of this scholarship focuses on historical spatial practices, or on ways in which medieval concepts of space were actualized in social reality" (Bailey, 2013, p.495).

Paraphrase with in-text citation:

In fact, much of the literature on medieval churches have concentrated on the historical role these sites played in the day to day social lives of women and men (Bailey, 2013, p. 495).

References Citation:

Bailey, A. (2013) "Modern and medieval approaches to pilgrimage, gender and sacred space." *History & Anthropology*, 24,(4), 493-512. doi:10.1080/02757206.2013.813850.

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What if I use a direct quote?

- Definitely. Put quotation marks around the borrowed text AND put a citation at the end of the quote.

Example (APA format):

Original:

The poet William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland on 7 April 1770. Much of his poetry was inspired by the dramatic landscapes of the Lake District, and his work did much to alter public perceptions of that part of England.

Quote with in-text citation:

William Wordsworth's upbringing and home impacted his writing, and "much of his poetry was inspired by the dramatic landscapes of the Lake District, and his work did much to alter public perceptions of that part of England" (British Library, 2017).

References Citation:

British Library. (2017). William Wordsworth. Retrieved from <https://www.bl.uk/people/william-wordsworth>.

What if I use an oral interview?

- Yes. Using an interview is just like any other source, following the rules of thumb for summary, paraphrase, and quotation.

Example (APA):

Summary:

Even a veteran college instructor found that her students were frequently unable to afford the required textbooks for their classes (J. Doe, personal communication, March 22, 2018).

Paraphrase with in-text citation:

John Doe found a student had even dropped a class because the cost of textbooks made her unable to afford a full course load (personal communication, March 22, 2018).

Quotation with in-text citation:

The frustration is evident among instructors and students, as one instructor noted "the cost of textbooks is becoming an impediment to learning for my students" (J. Doe, personal communication, March 22, 2018).

References Citation:

No personal communication is included in your reference list; instead, parenthetically cite the communicator's name, the phrase, "personal communication," and the date of the communication in your main text only, as seen in the examples above.

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