

APA CITATIONS

In the APA system—as in any documentation system—the sources of all research information must be identified, whether quoted or summarized in your own words. Sources are identified by citations that appear in parentheses in the text of your essay immediately following each piece of research information.

A typical APA citation indicates author and date of publication, and may include page number(s) when necessary. Items within an APA citation are separated by commas. The citation leads the reader to the corresponding item in the references list where the full details on each source are given.

If you need help with APA citations, see your teacher, the librarians, or the Academic Skills Centre staff.

SUMMARIZED INFORMATION

When the summarized information represents the overall point of an article, a study, or a book:

- *Option A: Author's last name and date follow the research information:*

Items in people's short-term memory are lost very quickly unless the information is repeated mentally or orally without delay (Smith, 1999).

- *Option B: Author is named directly in the essay, with date following immediately:*

According to Smith (1999), items in people's short-term memory are lost very quickly unless the information is repeated mentally or orally without delay.

When the summarized information represents only one point or one segment of the source:

- *Option A: Author, date, and page number(s)-- or chapter number, paragraph number, etc.-- follows the research information:*

Items in people's short-term memory are lost very quickly unless the information is repeated mentally or orally without delay (Smith, 1999, p. 12).

- *Option B: Author named in the essay; year follows name; page number appears at the end:*

Smith (1999) has determined that items in people's short-term memory are lost very quickly unless the information is repeated mentally or orally without delay (p. 12).

QUOTATIONS

- *Option A: Author, date, and page number(s) follow the quotation:*

“Unlike sensory memory, which can hold a vast amount of information briefly, short-term memory has a very limited capacity” (Jones, 2001, pp. 76-77).

- *Option B: Author named directly in the essay, with date and page number(s) following:*

Jones (2001, pp. 76-77) states that “unlike sensory memory, which can hold a vast amount of information briefly, short-term memory has a very limited capacity.”

SPECIAL CASES

- *If there are two authors, give both last names, using an ampersand to represent “and”:*

(Leung & Whitfield, 2009) OR (Leung & Whitfield, 2009, p. 6)

- *If there are three to five authors, list all surnames in the first citation. In later citations, name the first author with the Latin abbreviation “et al.” to indicate “and others.”*

FIRST CITATION: (Schwartz, Black, & Smith, 2007) *ALL LATER CITATIONS:* (Schwartz et al., 2007)

- *If there are more than five authors, give the surname of the first author only, with “et al.”:*

(Wolynski et al., 2010) OR (Wolynski et al., 2010, p. 117)

- *When citing a source with a ‘group author’— e.g. an organization, government agency, or a corporation, give the full name in the first citation. If the name is long, and if an abbreviation would be clear and convenient for your reader, you may abbreviate it in all following citations. On the other hand, if the name is brief or if an abbreviation would be inconvenient, repeat the full name in each citation.*

FIRST CITATION: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2010) *ALL LATER CITATIONS:* (NIMH, 2010)

OR, IN ALL CITATIONS WHEN THE NAME IS BRIEF (Health Canada, 2011)

- *When no author’s name is available for a print or Internet source, use the first few words of the References List entry (usually the opening words of a title) followed by the year. Use quotation marks when these words represent the title of an article, chapter, or web page; use italics when these words represent the title of a book, periodical, report, or pamphlet:*

(“Sleep Disorders,” 2008) (*The Memory*, 2010)

- *If the information cited appears in several books or articles, you may list them all in one citation, in alphabetical order, separated by semicolons:*

(Gustav, 2008; Singh, 2006; Wilson, 2007)

PLACEMENT AND PUNCTUATION

Following summarized information: . . . clear insight into compulsive behaviour (Baker, 2002).

. . . a recent study by Wilson (2010) indicates that . . .

Following a brief quotation: . . . complexities of the human psyche” (Shlovski, 2009, p. 8).

Following a long, set-off quotation: . . . the world of the subconscious. (Aziz, 2001, pp. 67-68)