**APA documentation style**

APA documentation style. As a college writer you'll read sources to learn what has been written about your topic and to support or counter the points you make in your project. These sources might provide a surprising statistic, challenge your assumptions, or offer expert opinion for your argument.

As an academic writer you will cite your sources for two reasons.

First, to tell readers where the information comes from so they can judge if it is reliable and can find the source on their own if they're interested in reading more. And second, to give credit to the writers of any words or ideas you have borrowed. In APA style you will cite sources in the text of your paper or project. And at the end, in a list of references, you will give all the information your readers need to find the sources for themselves.

Think about in-text citation as a guide for your readers, a way to say this information is taken from a source, this is the author, and this is the year when the source was published. In this example, Hannah Appel is the author, and the sentence paraphrases a point in the article. The year of publication appears in parentheses. Sometimes you can put both the author's name and the year of publication in the parentheses following the paraphrased content.

The author's name in the in-text citation points readers to the author's name in the list of references, which gives complete source information. Here readers have the author, year, article title, and publication information, so they can find the source for themselves. Documenting your sources in this way guides readers quickly to the source of an idea you have quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

When you respect your readers’ interest in exploring your sources and you guide them easily to the sources that inform your thinking, your own credibility grows. You become a trustworthy source yourself.

And that's the story of using citations in APA style. If you have more questions, consult your handbook’s APA documentation section.