



Basic In-Text Citation Style Format by Author Type

When citing sources in an APA style paper, there are two types of in-text citations that can be used within the body of an APA paper to help the reader locate the corresponding reference in the reference list. The two types of in-text citations are *parenthetical citations* and *narrative citations*. A parenthetical citation is a type of citation where the author and date are listed at the end of the sentence in parentheses; whereas, the narrative citation identifies the author's name as part of the sentence with the date immediately following the author's name in parentheses.

There are a number of ways that parenthetical and narrative citations can be added to the body of the paper to aid in the readability of the paper. The following table provides a few examples of how this may be done based on the type of author.

Author Type	Parenthetical Citation Example	Narrative Citation Example
One Author		
First citation	(Johnson, 2020)	Johnson (2020)
Subsequent citations	(Johnson, 2009)	Johnson (2020)
Two Authors		
First citation	(Smith & Jones, 2020)	Smith and Jones (2020)
Subsequent citations	(Smith & Jones, 2020)	Smith and Jones (2020)
Three or more authors		
First citation	(Carlson et al., 2020)	Carlson et al. (2020)
Subsequent citations	(Carlson et al., 2020)	Carlson et al. (2020)
Group Author with Abbreviation		
First citation*	(The College of St. Scholastica [CSS], 2019)	The College of St. Scholastica (CSS, 2019)
Subsequent citations	(CSS, 2019)	CSS (2019)
Group Author without Abbreviation		
First citation	(University of Wisconsin, 2018)	University of Wisconsin (2018)
Subsequent citations	(University of Wisconsin, 2018)	University of Wisconsin (2018)

Note. Adapted from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, by the American Psychological Association, 2020, Table 8.1, p. 266 (<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>). Copyright 2020 by the American Psychological Association.

*Define the abbreviation for a group author only once in the text, choosing either the parenthetical or narrative citation. Once introduced, use only the abbreviation for all mentions of the group author in the text of your paper.