



ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

APA FORMAT QUOTATIONS 7th edition

Note: Some information is adapted from *A Writer's Reference*, 9th edition, by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

In academic writing, we emphasize our own ideas by paraphrasing or summarizing information from other sources and then analyzing that information in our own words. Direct quotations are most effective when a writer wants to

- add authority to an argument
- explain technical concepts
- include especially vivid or powerful language
- analyze the language of a source.

Avoid dropping quotations into a paper without introduction. Prepare the reader for the borrowed material with a brief introduction, often called a *signal phrase*. Direct quotations require page numbers.

- A **narrative citation** names the author of the source (last name only) and the year of publication within parentheses. The page number is placed at the end of the citation. Example: Nazari (2016) reported that "...” (p. 21).
- A **parenthetical citation** requires the last name of the author, year of publication, and page number *at the end of the sentence*. Example: (Nazari, 2016, p. 21).

Note: When paraphrasing, use your own words to express the author's idea(s) or to summarize the author's method(s) using either the narrative or parenthetical examples above. APA *does not* require a page number unless your readers would want to follow-up with the information you provided them.

Use a variety of signal phrases and sentence constructions to make your writing more interesting.

Note: APA style generally refers to authors by *last name only*. It also uses past tense or present perfect tense verbs (*found* or *has found*) except when drawing conclusions from data or discussing the results of your research (example: The research shows...).

Common Signal Phrase Verbs

acknowledged	claimed	explained	reasoned
added	commented	found	reported
agreed	compared	noted	responded
argued	confirmed	observed	stated
asserted	emphasized	pointed out	suggested

Short Quotations

Integrate quotations of *less than forty words* into a paper with a signal phrase including the author's name and the year of publication. Double space the quoted text and enclose it in quotation marks. Follow the quotation with the page number in parentheses *before* the end punctuation. Writers do not always need to quote full sentences from a source. You can choose the most important parts and integrate them into your own sentence.

(Note: For a source without page numbers, such as a legal document, there will be no citation in parentheses if the author and date have already been introduced in a **narrative** signal phrase or within parentheses in a **parenthetical** citation.)

Example of a narrative citation:

Gladwell (2008) claimed that successful people have “hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot” (p. 19).

Long/Block Quotations

Set off a quotation of *forty or more words* by indenting it one-half inch (five spaces or one tab) from the left margin. Continue double spacing but do not use quotation marks. Integrate the long quotation into the paper by introducing it with an informative sentence followed by a colon. Follow the quotation with a parenthetical citation one space *after* the end punctuation. (For sources without page numbers, there will be no parenthetical citation if the author and date have already been introduced in the signal phrase.)

Example of a narrative citation:

Gladwell (2008) argued persuasively that success is more than an individual accomplishment:

People don't rise from nothing. We do owe something to parentage and patronage. The people who stand before kings may look like they did it all by themselves. But in fact they are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot. (p. 19)

Corresponding References page entry:

Gladwell, M. (2008). *Outliers: The story of success*. Little, Brown.

For a parenthetical block quotation, introduce it with a sentence of your own followed by a colon. Use the tab key to indent 5 spaces. Type the quotation but do not use quotation marks. Use a period mark. Follow it with the author's name, year of publication, and page number in parentheses. Example: (Klein & Simmons, 2018, p. 78) *Note: No period mark is required after the last parenthesis.*