APA 7th Edition: In-Text Citations

When to cite your paper

- Cite works that you have read and ideas that you have incorporated into your writing.
- Provide citations for facts, figures and ideas that are not common knowledge.
- You do not need to cite things that are common sense or factual (i.e. “the sun is yellow”, “Paris is the capital city of France”).

Avoiding Plagiarism

- By citing your work correctly and using good academic practices, you will avoid plagiarism. Here is APA’s definition of plagiarism:

**Plagiarism:** “is the act of presenting the words, ideas, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship” (American Psychological Association, 2020, p. 174).

Using Sources

- **What do we mean by using sources in your work?** A source is information or material that you use in your papers. Sources help you to support your points and provide useful research to strengthen your papers. Examples of sources include:

  - Books
  - Journal articles
  - Newspapers
  - Websites
  - Reports
In-text Formats

**Narrative Citations (Paraphrase)**

According to Smith (2020) it is important for students to develop their critical thinking skills in order to be autonomous in their learning.

**Narrative Citations (Quote)**

According to Smith (2020), “Once students have demonstrated competency in their critical thinking, they are able to be successful independent learners” (p. 45).

**Parenthetical Citations**

It has been argued that it is important for students to develop their critical thinking skills in order to be autonomous in their learning (Smith, 2020).

**Multiple Authors**

**One or two**: Wagner and Smithson (2017) argue…
(Wagner & Smithson, 2017).

**Three or more**: Elliot et al. (2013) suggest that…
(Elliot et al., 2013)

**How often should I cite?**

- Undercitation can lead to plagiarism, overcitation can be distracting.
- There is no “correct number” of citations. Cite whenever the words or ideas you are using are not common knowledge.

**For more information…**

Please note that this is a basic guide and only scratches the surface of how to cite your paper using the APA 7th edition style. For more information, please consult a copy of the Concise Guide to APA style which is designed for undergraduate students.