Citing the Source in APA Style

Academic Integrity in the Use of Ideas

Why do we need to cite sources?

- Establish credibility for your paper
  - the source and date of information makes a difference to the reader
- Maintain academic integrity
  - if you use someone else’s idea without giving that person credit, it is dishonest--like stealing something
  - the name for this error is plagiarism

Plagiarism

- Intentional
  - purposefully using an idea and the way of expressing an idea without giving credit
  - may be as much as the whole paper!
- Unintentional
  - not following the rules out of ignorance
    - Using an idea without citing at all
    - Citing a source as if the idea you are citing is paraphrased, when you are using exact words (quoting)

Citing the source

- Cite source of every idea that is not an original observation
- Citations can refer to:
  - articles, books, web pages
  - conversations, interviews
  - television shows, . . . .
- BUT, sources used in a formal paper will be mostly professional journals

Parenthetical citations

- Source is cited in the same sentence that idea is discussed
  - Need to make clear what ideas are from the source
  - Don’t put citation at END of paragraph for a whole paragraph of ideas
- Information is given in parentheses -- “more or less”
  - The causative organism of xxx is yyy (Smith, Black, & Grumby, 1999).
  - According to Smith, Black, and Grumby (1999), the causative organism of xxx is yyy.
Two ways to include someone else’s ideas in your paper

1. Quote the exact words (direct quote)
   - use very sparingly, only when absolutely necessary
   - definitions, etc.
2. Paraphrase the idea (put in your own words)
   - you still have to cite source
   - does not mean just changing a few words in sentence

Quotations

- Use exact words--even if misspelled or bad grammar
- Use whole sentence or indicate what you have omitted
- Use quotation marks if less than 40 words
- Citation includes page number
- Again--use very sparingly

Examples of quotations with citation

- “Using a word processor makes editing easier” (Thede, 1999, p. 63).
- Thede (1999) stated that, “Help, however, is often just a mouse click away” (p. 68).

Examples of paraphrasing with citation

- Thede’s words: “Software programs that are designed to help a user manipulate written text, edit, rearrange, and retype documents on a personal computer are called word processors.”
- Examples of paraphrasing the idea:
  - Thede (1999) described word processing programs as computer applications that assist the user to write, edit, move, and rearrange text.
  - Word processing programs are computer applications that assist the user to write, edit, move, and rearrange text (Thede, 1999).

Citation basics

- Include author(s)’ last name(s) and year of publication (+ page number for quotations).
- Place at end of sentence or idea that you are citing, all in parentheses) OR
- Use author(s)’ name(s) within the sentence followed by date in parentheses (page # at end in parentheses if needed.)

More than one author

- Two authors
  - use both names every time
  - join by “and” if within sentence
  - join by “&” if within parentheses
- Smith and Jones (1998) stated . .
- Informatics is fun (Smith & Jones, 1998).
More than two authors

- Three to Five authors
  - use all names the first time cited in paper
  - use first author’s name + et al. in subsequent citations
- Initial citation: Smith, Jones, and White (1997) stated that . . .
- Subsequent citation:
  - Smith et al. (1997) stated that . . .

Lots and lots of authors

- With six or more authors, use the first author’s name and et al. for all citations
- Black et al. (1999) found that . . .
- Using computers helped nurses to . . . (Black et al., 1999).

One more rule

- Include the publication date the first time a source is cited in each paragraph
- After that, within the same paragraph, you can omit the date
- Unless there is a possibility of confusion

Example

Smith (1997) stated that computers are lots of fun. He also asserted that they will be very helpful to nurses. Black (1999) agreed that computers will assist nurses with many tasks. Smith also stated that computers should help nurses increase quality and decrease the cost of health care.

Another possible hang-up in citing sources

- Be aware if your source is a primary source or a secondary source for the idea you are citing
  - Primary: the author(s) write about original ideas or research findings
  - Secondary: the author(s) cite ideas from primary sources
- Primary source is usually preferred
- If you cite a secondary source, you have to include the primary source also:
  - Smith and Jones (as cited in Black, Green, & Humbug, 2000) —where Smith & Jones was the primary source
  - list only Black, Green, & Humbug on the Reference Page

Reference Page

- Every source cited in body needs to be listed
  (exception—personal communications)
- No other sources should be listed
  — no “bibliography”
Elements in References

- Periodicals:
  - Authors’ last names + initials (no credentials)
  - Date of publication (year only for journals)
  - Title of article (only first word, proper nouns and first word after colon in caps)
  - Name of journal (italicized)
  - Volume number (italicized)
  - Issue number (only if paginated starting with page one for each issue) - if used, put in parentheses after vol. #
  - Page numbers

Example


Elements of Reference--Book

- Authors’ last names + initials
- Year of copyright in parentheses
- Title of work (italicized with caps as for title of journal article)
- City of publication with state if not well-known
- Publisher

Example


Example of WWW page


If more than 6 authors, stop at 6 and use et al.
Other types of references

- Many, many, many types
  - Use examples in manual

- References to WWW resources also at
  - http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html

Putting Reference Page Together--Example

References


Use your resources

- The APA Manual
- Ask faculty
- Feedback you have received
- Web pages on APA style
- If you want/need more:
  - software
  - books at Amazon.com