

Some Common Questions about Writing in APA Style

- 1) How many times do I cite the same author in the same paragraph?
- 2) When should I use a direct quote?

Look at the following examples:

Another aspect of nursing that has changed throughout history is the distribution of nurses in healthcare settings (Duvoli, 2001). There are numerous new specialty clinics that are opening, public health nursing, and other “non-traditional” nursing opportunities (Duvoli, 2001). “Nursing is shifting away from bedside care” (Duvoli, 2001, p. 14). These new settings are providing a more appealing work environment, which hospitals lack (Duvoli, 2001).

Duvoli (2001) discusses some changes in the distribution of nurses in the healthcare system, which may contribute to staffing shortages in hospitals. Since the early 1990s, opportunities have opened for nurses in non-hospital environments such as in specialty clinics or in public health settings. These new settings may provide a more appealing work environment, which many hospitals lack. The shift away from bedside care into new venues has meant many more varied kinds of work for nurses, but at the same time, the strain on hospitals has increased (Duvoli, 2001).

The first paragraph seems awkwardly written. The direct quote is not necessary, and it isn't smoothly incorporated into the paragraph. *If information in each sentence came from different sources, this many citations would be okay.* But when it's all the same author, you can make that clear without so many parenthetical interruptions.

The second paragraph introduces the author at the beginning, and then to make sure the reader understands that all the material comes from the same source, there's another citation at the end. This paragraph is all paraphrase; direct quote is not necessary.

3) How do I quote an author quoted in another source?

To cite something you found embedded in another source, you can use the phrase “as cited in...”

Example: Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993)

You have to compose your sentence carefully in order to make clear that you are referring to material found in another source. Do this rather than trying to put parentheses inside parentheses.

For the reference list, you put only the work you actually read. In this case, that’s the Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller. Seidenberg and McClelland do not go in the reference list.

4) How do I cite the Interview? APA manual, 6th ed. P. 179

Cite “personal communications” in the text only, not the reference list. Give the initials and surname of the communicator, with an exact date:

She went on to explain the everyday importance of accurate knowledge about a patient’s culture (J. Diette, personal communication, May 2, 2009).

Diette explained that “the more accurate knowledge a nurse has about a patient’s culture, the better they will be able to assist that patient, and the family too (personal communication, May 2, 2009).

5) When should I use a block quote? APA manual, 6th ed. P. 171

Use a block quote for a direct quotation of 40 or more words.

6) New info for electronic sources

The 6th edition of the APA manual asks that you include the DOI (digital object identifier) for electronic sources in your reference list. All DOI numbers begin with a 10. It should be easily locatable in the heading of the source material. Section 6.32, beginning on p. 189 in the 6th edition, explains the DOI system and shows examples. If you have the DOI, you do not need to include the URL or any other retrieval information.

Herbst-Damm, K.L., & Kulik, J.A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology, 24*, 225-229. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

7) Other changes in the 6th Edition

Simplified rules for use of headings. See pp. 62-63.

APA Style Headings: 6th Edition

Level	Format
1	Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase Heading Then your paragraph begins below, indented like a regular paragraph.
2	Flush Left, Boldface, Uppercase, and Lowercase Heading Then your paragraph begins below, indented like a regular paragraph.
3	Indented, boldface, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period. Your paragraph begins right here, in line with the heading. ^a
4	<i>Indented, boldface, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.</i> Your paragraph begins right here, in line with the heading.
5	<i>Indented, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.</i> Your paragraph begins right here, in line with the heading.

^a For headings at Levels 3–5, the first letter of the first word in the heading is uppercase, and the remaining words are lowercase (except for proper nouns and the first word to follow a colon).

More precise discussion of reducing bias in language. See pp. 70-77.

For other changes, look at www.apa.org

8) Writing Center hours:

Monday – Thursday 9-9

Friday 9-2

Sunday 1-5

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

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