# In-text Citation FAQs

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| Why should I use in-text citations? | - Honesty and fairness require us to let readers know whose words or ideas we have borrowed.  
- We must establish credibility and provide context for our ideas.  
- Our responsibility is to provide sufficient documentation in a systematic way so that our reader can retrieve the information we used. | - SMUMN APA Handbook, page 9 |
| When do I use in-text citations? | You should cite each sentence that includes source information, whether it is an exact quotation or paraphrase:  
- For exact quotations, you must include a citation with a page number and put the exact words in quotation marks.  
- For paraphrases, you must include a citation with the author and date. | - SMUMN APA Handbook, page 5  
- APA Style Blog on Paraphrasing |
| What is the basic formatting for in-text citations? | There are two basic ways to format in-text citations: running text and parenthetically.  
To cite in running text means to place the author’s name in the sentence without parentheses: Wethington, Pan, and Sherry (2013) found the risk of obesity was highest in the population who had both “excessive screen time” and a bedroom television (p. 577).  
To cite parenthetically means to place the author’s name inside parentheses along with the date (and page number, if used): The risk of obesity was highest in the population who had both “excessive screen time” and a bedroom television (Wethington, Pan, & Sherry, 2013, p. 577).  
Both formats use the author-date system. This means that each citation provides enough information to point to the correct reference entry. You will also include the page number for exact quotations. | - SMUMN APA Handbook, page 29  
- The APA Style Blog on In-text Citations |
| How do I format in-text citations with multiple authors? | - For sources with one or two authors, you name all of the authors each time you cite (either in running text or parenthetically).  
- For sources with three to five authors, you name all of the authors the first time you mention them in the text and then use the first author’s name and the phrase et al. for subsequent in-text citations:  
First citation: (Johnson, Collins, & Abraham, 2013).  
Subsequent citations: (Johnson et al., 2013).  
If a source has 6 or more authors, name only the first author, followed by et al. in all in-text citations: (Smith et al., 2015). | - SMUMN APA Handbook, page 25  
- The APA Style Blog on Et Al. |
| How do I list multiple sources in an in-text citation? | Arrange them in the order they appear in the reference list (alphabetically), separated by a semi-colon: (Bass & Avolio, 1993; Burns, 1978; Yukl, 1994). | - The APA Style Blog on In-text Citations |