As students and scholars, we provide evidence from other sources in our writing to strengthen our argument, illustrate our depth of understanding of a topic and show our research is current. We acknowledge the contribution of others in our writing in two main ways:

- through citations, or in-text referencing throughout an academic piece of writing, and
- in a list of references at the end of your writing.

Different disciplines use different referencing conventions. At UNSW Canberra, depending on your academic discipline, you may be required to use the American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition in-text system. This guide is an introduction to APA in-text citations and reference lists.

**APA in-text citations**

When citing within your text using APA, include the name and year of publication either within or after a sentence. Here is an example *in your words*, but referring to the “experts”: in this case Masters and Bloom). *You* as the writer are making the statement, backed up by their expert opinion.

**Financial incentives were often used to influence opinion (Masters & Bloom, 2016).**

When you are referring to information that appears on a specific page or pages, you must include the page number/s. A citation would look like this (Lee, 2009, p. 79) if referring to one page, or (Lee, 2009, pp. 79–81) if referring to more than one.

When using a direct quotation, it is important to include it in quotation marks and give page number/s with your reference. Note below how the sentence moves smoothly from your voice to that of Badger, Fox and Pollard, and note that we use *and* not *&* as it is part of your sentence. If you cite three or more authors, after the first usage you can refer to the first author only and use ‘et al.’, e.g., “Badger et al.”

**Badger, Fox and Pollard (2018, p. 67) argue that “the most important aspect of the production process is the manager overseeing it”.**

If the direct quotation is long (40 words or more), you must indent the quotation from the left margin to distinguish between the quotation and your own words: note – no quotation marks here. Be very wary of using such long quotes, unless they really clinch your point in a way you couldn’t yourself.

**Surprisingly, others contradict Schmidt’s view:**

> Considering all that had gone before it, it is difficult to understand how Schmidt could have come to the conclusions she did. She had the findings of the royal commission, the outcomes of the Schering case, and evidence from her own research findings, and yet still she seemed to miss the point (Parsons, 2014, pp. 111-112).

There will be times when you will be citing or referencing someone who has referenced an original source that you haven’t read. Follow the in-text referencing advice below. Your list of references in this case will only list Unsworth, not Freire.

**Empowerment and political awareness comes about through **conscientization** (Freire, as cited in Unsworth, 2012, p. 15).**
APA referencing

Below is a short APA reference list, showing you how to reference a range of different source types. Note that we use alphabetical order, according to the first author's family name (or the department or institution if there is no author, and, failing that, we use the title of the reference). We also use a hanging indent (the first line starts at the margin, but second and subsequent lines are indented).

References


More information

While answering the most common questions, this short guide is unlikely to be sufficient for all your referencing needs at university. For further information see https://student.unsw.edu.au/apa or https://www.apastyle.org/, or make an appointment to see a Learning Advisor at the ALL Unit at https://gateway.unsw.adfa.edu.au/iteaching/iall/index.html.