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They're memorable ("I'll be back" – The Terminator), they communicate a lot succinctly ("Genius is 1 percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration" – Thomas Edison), and you can use them in papers to help support your thesis statement. After all, the best research papers include references from other sources. It can be tempting to throw in as many catchy quotes as possible but believe us when we say it's totally not worth it. This method is deeply flawed. It doesn't tell the reader where you got the quote or information and therefore doesn't add credibility to your paper—you could've just made the whole thing up! So when you include a quote in your paper, you must provide a citation to give this important context. So how do you write citations that properly tie in with your quotes? Here, we cover the basics for the most popular citation styles. Need help seeing if anything in your paper needs a citation (or basic edits)? Citation Machine Plus's grammar and essay checker may be for you! It'll help detect grammatical errors, scan for potential plagiarism, and create automatic citations. MLA MLA style, short for "Modern Language Association," is often used in social science, English, literature, and writing courses. This style uses an "author locator" system of citing. What this means is that generally, for the citation following the quote, you need to include the name of the author and the page number of the source you are quoting. Here is an example of how to cite a quote within the text in MLA style: When Scout says, "Well if we came out durin' the Old Testament it's too long ago to matter," she is referring to her confusion as to how society is so capable of dividing different people into different classes (Lee 47). Note that the parenthetical citation, or "in-text" citation, comes before the ending punctuation mark of the sentence. These in-text citations correspond to a full citation that is located at the end of the paper. In MLA style, this list of full citations is called a "Works Cited" page. Here is what the matching full citation would be for this in-text citation: Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird.* Harper Collins, 1960. *Titles for sources are set in title case for MLA style citations. If you need help with in-text and parenthetical citations, CitationMachine.net, can help. Our MLA citation generator is simple and easy to use! APA Citations in APA, short for "American Psychological Association," are very similar to those of the MLA citation system. This style is used mostly in science and psychology courses. Instead of the page number, however, the date of publication is included with the author's last name in the in-text citation. Here is an example of how to cite a quote within the text in APA style: When Scout says, "Well if we came out durin' the Old Testament it's too long ago to matter," she is referring to her confusion as to how society is so capable of dividing different people into different classes (Lee, 1960). These in-text citations, like in MLA style, also correspond to a full citation that is located at the end of the paper. In APA style, this list of full citations is called a "References" page. The corresponding entry on the references page looks a bit different than an entry on a "Works Cited" page. Here is what the matching full citation would be for this in-text citation in APA: Lee, H. (1960). To kill a mockingbird. Philadelphia: Harper Collins. *Titles for sources are often set in sentence case for APA-style citations. Check for rules that pertain to your particular citation style before handing in your paper. Chicago Style This citation style is a bit different from the rest. 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Example with a signal phrase: Betts (2018) stated, "Students have difficulty with formatting." (p. 200) Example without a signal phrase: She said, "Students have difficulty with formatting," (Betts, 2018, p. 200) but doesn't know why. Long Quotes Long quotes (which are more than 40 words quoted) take on the same format in APA style. However, you will indent all the quoted information a half inch. The citation at the end of the quote will come after the period. Here is a basic example: "The statistics showed (imagine forty words) … Nutrition is important." (Betts, 2018, p. 77) Paraphrasing When you paraphrase text from the source, you simply need to include the last name of the author and publication date. Example: This can be seen through the ways that nutrition… (Betts, 2018). Two Authors Sometimes, you'll come across books with two authors. If you don't know how specifically said the quote, then you will include both authors. Example: (Betts & Garrett, 2018, p. 65) Three to Five Authors Citations for your quote will take on two different formats depending on whether it is the initial reference. Example Initial reference: (Betts, Garrett & Cote, 2018, p. 55) Example additional citations: (Betts et al., 2018, p. 67) Six or More Authors Scholarly books might have six or more authors. Citing all the different names might take up multiple lines. APA has made an easy fix for this. Instead of listing all the names, just list the first author's last name followed by et al. Example: (Betts et al., 2018, p. 77) APA Website Citations for Quotes Websites don't have page numbers. When citing a quote from a website, you'll want to include the author(s), year and paragraph number. Here are examples of citations with an author: Example with signal text: Betts (2018) stated, "APA style was fun." (para. 3) Example without signal text: She stated, "APA style was fun." (Betts, 2018, para. 3) No Author You could come across a website you want to quote that doesn't list the author. It isn't the end of the world. APA just calls for you to list the name of the website. Example with signal text: APA Formatting (2018) stated, "APA is amazing." (para. 17) Example without signal text: "APA is amazing." (APA Formatting, 2018, para. 17) No Date The information that website offered is amazing, but they don't have a date. Don't look past them. Instead, add your quote with (n.d.) instead of a date (e.g. Betts, n.d., para. 2). Quotes from Interviews Personal interviews are not published works that can be looked up in your works cited. Since these works are unique, the citation is too. For a personal interview citation, include the author's name(s), personal communication and date. They are only found in-text. Quoting a Quote Citation Authors quote other authors and famous works to prove their points within published books, magazines, and more. Now, you are quoting that author. How confusing, right? It doesn't have to be. Citing a quote within a quote is as simple as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. List the original author's last name. Include the date of publication of the work. Follow with the publishing date of the cited work. List the page the information can be found on. If it seems like a lot, check out these examples. Example with signal text: Betts (2016) argues, "Quote." (as cited in Garrett, 2018, p. 22) Example without signal text: (Betts, 2016, as cited in Garrett, 2018, p. 22) Quotes, Quotes and More Quotes A sound paper is based on fact. Facts need resources. Quotes can supply great resources to back up the facts you're putting forth in your APA format paper. Now, have fun citing a quote saying in APA most commonly follows the rules for citing a book. Since a book doesn't quite reflect your source, use the drop-down to select another one.To cite a famous saying in APA on the References page, follow this formula:Author's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (Year). Title of book: Subtitle if applicable (Translator's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial., Trans.) (Edition, Page #). Publisher. DOI or URLA famous saying in APA has a simple citation format for in-text citations. The following information appears in parentheses after the text that cites the source, in what is known as a parenthetical citation:Author's Last Name, Year, Page #Another form for in-text citation is the narrative citation, which incorporates the author's name into the sentence. The year of publication would be in parentheses:"The author (Year) provides commentary on…"The style guide you would use to write your paper depends on the subject. 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No matter which style guide you're using, the process for writing a bibliography is generally the same. The primary difference between the different style guides is how the bibliography is formatted. Full citations come at the end of the paper in the bibliography section. It includes all important components of the cited source, such as author name, title, publication, publish date, page numbers, website URL, and DOI—the digital object identifier that acts as the document's permanent ID on the internet. In-text citations include both in-line citations and parenthetical citations, both of which you would use when quoting or taking an idea, thought, or fact from another author or source. In-line citations occur within the text itself. You might use in-line citations to introduce a statistic, quote, or finding along with the author's name, and then you would cite it by including the year in parentheses. 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Publications include books, newspapers, journal articles, magazines, etc. The author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number (preceded by a 'p.') should appear in parentheses after the quote. If you state the author's name in your sentence, the name must be followed by the year of publication in parenthesis and the quote must be followed by the page number. Follow the same procedures if the book has multiple authors.[2] Example:The author remarks on the "difficulty of citing quotes," (Smith, 2002, p. 32) but does not go into depth.orSmith (2002) mentions the "difficulty of citing quotes" (p. 32) but does not go into depth. Advertisement 3 Cite a book with multiple authors. This should include the authors' last names, the year of publication, and the page number.[3] These scholars agree that "quotes are useful" (Hu, Koller, and Shier, 2013, p. 75).orHu, Koller, and Shier agree that "quotes are useful" (p. 75). 4 Cite a publication with no known author. Instead of using an author's name for the in-text citation, use the title of the publication followed by the date.[4] In a study, it was determined that "the sky is in fact blue" ("Obvious Observations," 2013). 5 Cite a web page. If possible, cite a web page like any other document, using the author-date style. If there is no author name or date available, use a shortened version of the web page title in your parentheses, along with n.d (which stands for "no date"). If a web page does not have page numbers, signal which paragraph your quote is from by writing 'para.' (which stands for paragraph) followed by the paragraph's number.[5] Another study showed that "clouds are white" ("More Obvious Observations," n.d., para. 7). 6 Cite personal communications or interviews. Personal communications like e-mail and interviews are not considered recoverable data, so they are not recorded in your References list at the end of the work. Include all of the following in a parenthetical citation, placed as close after the quote as possible: Your source's name, form of communication, date of the communication. The message affirmed that "the sky is in fact blue" (John Smith, email, August 23, 2013). 7 Create a reference list. This is where you list all of the sources you have quoted or cited in your paper. You should list your sources in alphabetical order. Use the following formats:[16] Book with one author:Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.Note: The Medium of Publication is "Print" for paper books. Other media include Web and Radio.Book with multiple authors:Lastname, Firstname of first alphabetical author, then Firstname Lastname for other authors. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.Web page:[17] "Name of Article." Name of Website. Name of website owner, date of publication. Web. Date of access.Note: Write n.d. if no publishing date is listed.Personal interview:Lastname, Firstname of interviewee. Personal interview. Date.Published interview:Lastname, Firstname of interviewee. Interview with (Name of Interviewer). Publication or program (year): page numbers if applicable. Medium of publication.Personal message:Lastname, Firstname of sender. "Title of Message." Medium. Date. Advertisement 1 Use CMS if your prefer footnotes or endnotes to in-text citation. CMS is good for research papers and essays with a lot of sources and quotations. 2 Decide whether you are going to use footnotes or endnotes. After each in-text citation, you must added a superscript reference number. (It looks like this:1) Each superscript number correlates with either a footnote or an endnote. Footnotes are found at the bottom of each page and include all of the bibliographic information for the work that you are citing. Endnotes appear at the end of a paper, similar to how Works Cited pages work, though endnotes are formatted differently. The differences will be discussed in the following steps.3[18] 3 Create an in-text citation. Regardless of the length of the quote, insert a raised number after each quote. This number will correlate to the footnote that will appear at the bottom of the page.[19] The people who worked in the meat factories of Chicago at the turn of the century "were tied to the great packing-machine, and tied to it for life."1 4 Create a footnote or endnote. Both notes are formatted in the same way. If you choose to use footnotes, place them at the bottom of a page that has superscripts. Only put footnotes on the page where their correlating superscripts are. You must have a footnote for every superscript you use. If you choose to use endnotes, put them on their own page under the title of 'Notes' following the text of your essay. You must have an endnote for every superscript you use.[20] 5 Create a footnote/endnote for a quotation from a book. You must list: the author's firstname lastname, Title of Book (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication), page number.[21] The people who worked in the meat factories of Chicago at the turn of the century "were tied to the great packing-machine, and tied to it for life."1 1 Upton Sinclair, The Jungle (Doubleday, Page & Company: 1906), 99. 6 Create a footnote/endnote for a web page from the internet. You must list: Firstname Lastname, "Title of Web Page," Publishing Organization or Name of Website in Italics, publication date and/or access date if available. If the web page does not have an author, list: "Title of Web Page," Publishing Organization or Name of Website in Italics, publication date and/or access date if available.[22] With an author:John Doe, "Citing Sources," Organization of Writing Fanatics, last modified August 23, 2013, www.blahcitingblahblah.comWithout an author:"Citing Sources," Organization of Writing Fanatics, last modified August 23, 2013, www.blahcitingblahblah.com 7 Create a footnote/endnote for an interview or personal communication. For an unpublished interview, list: Name of interviewee, type of communication, date.[23] Unpublished interview:John Doe, (musician) in discussion with the author, Aug 23, 2013.Published interview:John Doe, interviewed by Jane Doe, Music Lovers, Aug 23, 2013.Personal communication:John Doe, email to the author, Aug 23, 2013. 8 Create a Works Cited or Bibliography. This is optional. Refer to your specific instructions to see if you need a works cited or bibliography. 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With over 35 years of experience, he specializes in investigative journalism, nonfiction books, and editorials. He holds a law degree from UC College of the Law, San Francisco, and a BA in Political Science from the University of California-Berkeley. He's the author of thirteen books, including several New York Times bestsellers, the winner of the Florida Book Award for General Nonfiction, and has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History. He was also shortlisted for the Best Business Book of 2020 by the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing. This article has been viewed 1,285,893 times. Co-authors: 30 Updated: February 24, 2025 Views: 1,285,893 Categories: Featured Articles | Citation Print Send Fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 1,285,893 times. "My communications professor directed my class to the wikiHow site to learn some paper-writing techniques. The wikiHow site makes it easy to digest articles. It has been very helpful, and now that I know it's here, I will use wikiHow in the future."..." more Share your story to the world of academic writing, citing sources is essential to maintaining credibility and avoiding plagiarism. When it comes to citing a famous quote in APA format, it can sometimes be a bit tricky to navigate. Fear not, fellow researchers and writers! In this blog post, we will delve into the ins and outs of properly citing famous quotes using the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA). Whether you're looking to cite a quote from a person, an Internet reference, or even wondering if you need to cite a quote at all, we've got you covered. We'll also explore how to cite a famous quote in APA, discuss what to say to haters with some inspiring quotes, and even touch on the popularity of a well-known phrase like "Hakuna Matata." So, let's dive in and learn the art of citing famous quotes in APA style! Keywords: How do you cite a famous quote in a person in APA?, What is a 4-word phrase?, How do I cite an Internet reference?, How do you cite a famous quote in APA?, What do you say to haters quotes?, Do you have to cite a quote?, How do you kill haters?, Is Hakuna Matata a quote? How to Cite a Famous Quote in APA So, you've stumbled upon the perfect quote to support your brilliant idea in your APA-style research paper. But now you're facing a conundrum: how on earth do you cite a famous quote in APA? Fear not, my friend! I am here to save the day and guide you through this quirky world of citation rules with a touch of wit and charm. Let's dive right in, shall we? Crafting the Perfect In-text Citation Ah, the elusive in-text citation! This little gem allows your readers to locate the exact source of your quote. And APA has rules for that, because of course it does. Here's how you do it: Start with the author's last name. Unless you're quoting Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," then just use the character's name. Follow it with a comma. Because commas make everything better in life. Now, add the year the quote was published or spoken. If you can't find the exact year, just use "n.d." Make sure to use parentheses around it, like you're giving it a warm hug. Next, plop in a comma again. Commas and APA go together like peanut butter and jelly. Finally, insert the page number where the quote can be found. If you're quoting a character like Captain Jack Sparrow, who doesn't dwell on pages, just use "para." and the paragraph number. How nifty is that? Holding an Author's Hand: Creating an Author Citation Alright, champ! Now it's time to create the full citation in your reference list. This'll make you shine like a star in your APA-style writing. Here's the game plan: Take the author's last name. If it's a character or organization, use the relevant name instead. Your flexibility is commendable! Add a comma. 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Here's a step-by-step guide to keep the academic police at bay: Include the speaker's name: Start with the last name, followed by the first initial and middle initial (if available). If the speaker goes by a nickname or alias, go ahead and use that instead. Add the publication year: Place the year in parentheses right after the speaker's name. Make sure to set it off with a comma. Introduce the quote: Begin the quote with a signal phrase such as "According to" or "As stated by." This signals to your reader that you're about to drop some insightful words are on their way. Include the quote: Type the famous words exactly as they were spoken, enclosing them in double quotation marks. Cite the source: Finish off with the source information. Include the title of the speech or lecture in italics, the location where it took place, and the URL if available. For example, let's say you want to cite a profound quote by our beloved Mr. Einstein. Einstein, A. (1931). "Imagination is more important than knowledge." According to Einstein, imagination reigns supreme in the realm of intellect (p. 27). What is a 4-word phrase Ah, the humble 4-word phrase. It's like a tiny burst of linguistic joy that can encompass so much meaning in such a small space. Need some examples? Sure, here you go: "Life is like Tetris." "Beards make everything better." "Coffee: the ultimate elixir." "Mathematicians have prime choices." See what we did there? A 4-word phrase can capture the essence of a concept, give you a chuckle, or make you ponder the mysteries of the universe. So go ahead, create your own and let your words do the talking! How do I cite an Internet reference The internet—a bottomless well of information and a never-ending rabbit hole of distraction. But fear not, brave researcher! Here's how to cite an internet reference in APA style: Author, author? Start with the author's last name and initials, just like you would for a good ol' book. The year of web page was published or last updated in parentheses. Title of the page: Include the title of the web page and put it in italics. Website name: Include the full name of the website in sentence case (again, capitalize only the first word and proper nouns). Retrieval date: Say when you visited the page, using the format "Retrieved Month Day, Year." URL: Finally, provide the direct URL to the web page (yes, copy-paste that intimidating string of letters and numbers). Here's an example of how it all comes together: Doe, J. (2023). The Ultimate Guide to Internet Awesomeness. Internetertainment. Retrieved April 1, 2023, from How do you cite a famous quote in APA Ah, famous quotes. Those magical words that have been passed down through generations, inspiring and igniting our souls. To give these gems the proper APA treatment, follow these steps: Name your source: Start by mentioning the author (if known) or the title of the quote if it's from a specific work. Enclose the title in quotation marks and use sentence case. Give credit: Attribute the quote with a signal phrase such as "According to" or "As proclaimed by." It's all about acknowledging the wisdom of the original speaker. Include the source: Finish off by providing the source information, including the publication year (if available), the title of the work or speech in italics, and the page number if applicable. Now, let's say you want to cite that classic Yoda line in your APA masterpiece: "Size matters not." As proclaimed by the wise Yoda (n.d., p. 47). What do you say to haters quotes Haters gonna hate, right? But sometimes, you just can't resist firing back a witty comeback that leaves them speechless. Here are a few quotes to keep in your arsenal: "Keep rolling your eyes. Maybe you'll find a brain back there." "I'm sorry, my success must be really bothering you." "Oh, you have a problem with me? Let's arrange a pity party for you." "Haters are like mosquitoes; annoying, but ultimately insignificant." Feel free to sprinkle these quotes in your conversations with haters, or simply save them for a rainy day when you need a good laugh. Stay strong and keep shining! Do you have to cite a quote Ah, the age-old question—do you need to give credit where credit is due? The answer, my friend, is an emphatic YES! Citing a quote ensures that you're not only being honest and ethical, but it also allows readers to explore the original source and dive deeper into the wisdom presented in the quote. So, whether you're writing an academic paper, a blog post, or a casual tweet, play it safe and cite that quote. Not only will you avoid the wrath of the plagiarism gods, but you'll also show your audience that you've done your homework. How do you kill haters Whoa, there! We're all about spreading love and good vibes here, so let's talk about a different kind of "killing." How about we "kill 'em with kindness"? It might sound cheesy, but trust us, it works like a charm! Smile wide: Flash those pearly whites and watch the haters squirm in confusion. Shower them with compliments: Counter negativity with positivity by highlighting their strengths. It'll catch them off guard. Stay true to yourself: Don't let haters shake your confidence. Keep being the awesome individual you are and let them marvel at your resilience. Rise above: Remember that their negativity is a reflection of their own insecurities. Don't stoop to their level; soar high like an enlightened being. Surround yourself with support: Build a fortress of love and laughter around you by surrounding yourself with positive people who lift you up. Remember, haters thrive on attention. Don't give them the satisfaction of bringing you down. Instead, shower them with love and watch their negativity wilt away. Is Hakuna Matata a quote Ah, the nostalgic vibes of Disney's "The Lion King." Hakuna Matata—the phrase that means no worries—for the rest of your days (now you're singing it, aren't you?). But is it a quote? Technically, it's not attributed to a specific person, so it falls more into the category of a catchphrase or motto. However, given its cultural significance and the lasting impact of the film, Hakuna Matata has become a beloved quote in its own right. So, quote away, my friend! Embrace the philosophy of a worry-free life and let the words of Timon and Pumbaa bring a smile to your face. Now that you're armed with the knowledge of APA quoting and equipped to handle haters with grace, go forth and conquer the literary world. Remember, a well-cited quote is like a breath of fresh air in a bustling world of ideas. Keep quoting, stay witty, and let your words inspire! All well-known quotations that are attributable to an individual or to a text require citations. You should quote a famous saying as it appears in a primary or secondary source and then cite that source. While it is acceptable to cite a famous saying from a website or a book that just features famous quotations, quoting from the original source provides readers with more context and could strengthen the argument you are making. The following two sentences provide examples: As Alexander Pope said, "A little learning is a dang'rous Thing" (line 215). As Alexander Pope said, "A little learning is a dangerous thing" (qtd. in Bartlett). Works Cited Bartlett, John. Familiar Quotations: A Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature. Little, Brown, 1919. Bartleby, 2000, www.bartleby.com/100/230.99.html. Pope, Alexander. An Essay on Criticism. The Poems of Alexander Pope, edited by John Butt, Yale UP, 1963, pp. 144-68. However, common figures of speech do not require a citation, as in the following: Even though the novel appeared to be highly original at first, it turns out that "there's nothing new under the sun." The phrase "there is no new thing under the sun" comes from Ecclesiastes, but it has become proverbial and so does not require a citation. in-text citations, quotations, using sources, works-cited lists Published 3 January 2019