

APA FAQ's

I am reading an article, and the author is citing someone else. I want to use this information. How do I cite it?

- Don't. Get your hands on the original source (the one your article is citing) and cite the original.
- "But I can't get the original!" You probably can't because...
 - The source is obscure or out of print. Before you determine that this source is unobtainable, ask your librarian for help. If you and the librarian really can't find it, cite as directed below.
 - Your paper is due very soon and you can't get the source from library loan in time.*
 - *(*Don't let this happen! Start your papers well ahead of time so you can order from library loan!)*
- AVOID citing a secondary source like this if you are writing your master's thesis or a doctoral project or dissertation. Get the original. If you are writing a 3 page reflection paper for a professor, he or she may be more lenient.
- Here's how to do it:
- **Mavis Johnson's 2008 study found that people like peanut butter better than caramel (as cited in Randstad & Bloomington, 2010).**
- Then, in the reference list, you will list the Ranstad & Bloomington source, but NOT the Johnson source.

I am citing the same source repeatedly. How many times do I need to do an in-text citation?

- In the same paragraph, with the author's name in the text of the sentence:
 - Cite Author (year) the first time.
 - **Johnson (2010) says...**
 - Cite Author the subsequent times.
 - **Johnson also says...**
- In the same paragraph, with the author's name and year in parentheses:
 - Cite (Author, year) every single time
- In a different paragraph:
 - Cite author and year again. The pattern above starts over with each new paragraph.

What if my source has no date?

- Look really hard for the date. Ask the librarian for help.
- If the librarian can't find one either, then use (n.d.)
- **Johnson (n.d.) says...**
- **Johnson, E. (n.d.) *Title of work*. Location: Publisher**

