APA and Direct Quotations
Direct quotes are a common way college writers incorporate the words and ideas of authors into essays and research papers. In this unit, we will discuss how to insert quoted material into the essay and apply correct in-text citations to identify the original source or location of quoted material (article, book, website, newspaper, etc.).

It is important to remember that quoted material is always identified through the use of in-text citations with the corresponding reference citation listed at the end of the essay or as an item on the Reference Page in a research paper.
In this course, the APA instructional material is covered in segments in Unit II – Unit VIII. Although, APA requires proper reference citing with an in-text citation for quoted and paraphrased material, it is not necessary in the Unit III Academic Paper to add the reference citation for the quoted material.

Reference citations and formatting a Reference Page is covered in detail in Unit V. Let's review how to apply parenthetical citations to quoted materials.
The Direct Quotation

One way a writer can integrate information from research into his/her paper is by using a direct quote. Direct quotations are the most easily identified way for a reader to recognize that ideas come from another source. Quotes must have direct identification of the original author. Many college writers gravitate to using quotes without understanding its purpose. The direct quote completely removes the researcher’s or student’s voice and gives all authority of knowledge to the source. Quotes are used to support the argument or position of the writer. It is important to remember that quotes are not intended to replace your thoughts and ideas, but to give clearer meaning or credibility to your ideas. Aaron (2007) suggests the following guidelines when considering the use of quotations:

- The original language is more bold, vivid, or inventive.
- A paraphrase may distort the meaning of the material.
- The quotation defines the opinion of an expert.
- The quotation strongly reinforces your stated opinion.
- The quotation serves as an illustration, graph, diagram, or table (p. 355).
The most effective way to incorporate the direct quote is to follow it with analysis, or an explanation of the quote’s significance. Merely “dropping” a direct quote into a paragraph does not allow for a smooth incorporation or even a logical approach.

Making the significance of the quote apparent demonstrates critical thinking on the part of the researcher or student. APA requires that direct quotations be placed in quotation marks, or in the case of a quotation over 40 words in length, in blocked format within the text. In addition, the use of in-text citation with matching reference citations is required. Review the following discussion on citing to gain an understanding of how to reference quoted, paraphrased, and summarized information in an essay.
Introduction to APA Citations

✓ Citations are one of the most important components of any essay or research project.
✓ The reference list and in-text citations are two different forms of citation, but when one is necessary, the other is as well. You should always use both when quoting and paraphrasing.
✓ Citations demonstrate a working knowledge of academic information that is relevant to your topic.
✓ Remember not to overuse quoted material. Use the ratio of 80 percent of your text to 20 percent quoted or paraphrased material as your guide.
✓ Using citations both in text and in the references list at the end of the paper will help you to avoid the serious offense of plagiarism.
Three Kinds of Citations

1. Citations for short direct quotations
2. Citations for long direct quotations
3. Citations for paraphrased source material
Citations for Short Direct Quotations

✓ A citation for a short direct quotation involves a direct, word-for-word quote from one specific source. This means that you may not change the source’s words in any way.

✓ The short direct quotation contains less than 40 words and is roughly four lines of text or less on your page.

✓ The short direct quotation is the only kind of quotation that is actually encased within or surrounded by quotation marks (""'). Long direct quotations are indicated differently.

✓ All uses of quotations require that the author’s name, the year of publication, and the page number (if there is one) are given in the sentence. Most of the time, this is in the form of an in-text citation at the end of the sentence.

✓ When incorporating a short direct quotation, consider using a signal phrase to introduce the quotation. This will help you to avoid floating and drop quotations, making the integration smooth.

✓ The end punctuation for the sentence itself will come after the last parentheses of the parenthetical citation.
Citations for Short Direct Quotations... An Example

One of the first reasons that handguns must be eliminated from public schools is that their presence makes already nervous students even more edgy. However, using metal detectors and having guards patrol the hallways does not seem to help either. According to Adams (1993), “the more that schools attempt to implement the use of high tech gadgets and police squads, the more frightened and agitated the already troubled teens become” (p. 34). Clearly, there is a correlation between the dehumanization that technology promotes and the anti-social behavior that exists in students who are patrolled by and policed by this unfeeling electronic machinery.
Direct Quotations with More Than 40 Words

Block quotations (quotes that are 40 words or more) are formatted differently, as they have no quotation marks. In formal writing, block quotations are acceptable, although their use should not be in excess. While block quotes are accepted in formal writing, the use of them in essay responses is not encouraged due to the length of the assignment. Block quotations are indented an additional .5” and double spaced (the example below is not double spaced due to formatting purposes). As previously mentioned, the period is placed before the citation. Here is an example:

The solutions proposed by a number of advocacy groups underscore this interest in political and cultural change. A report outlined trends that may have contributed to the childhood obesity crisis. This includes food advertising for children as well as a reduction in physical education classes and after-school athletic programs, an increase in the availability of sodas and snacks in public schools, the growth in the number of fast-food outlets, and the increasing number of highly processed high-calorie and high-fat grocery products. (Kaiser, 2004, pp. 1-2)
Example One.

According to Adams (1993), “the more that schools attempt to implement the use of high tech gadgets and police squads, the more frightened and agitated the already troubled teens become” (p. 34).
In-Text Citations for a Direct Quotation

Example Two.

Signal phrase
This situation makes clear that “the more that schools attempt to implement the use of high tech gadgets and police squads, the more frightened and agitated the already troubled teens become” (Adams, 1993, p. 34).

Quotation marks begin short direct quotation
Author’s last name, date of publication, and page number
End quotation marks
Long Direct Quotation and In-text Citation

✓ A long direct quotation is a direct, word-for-word quote from a specific source containing 40 words or more.

✓ A long direct quotation is indented five spaces from the left margin and is sometimes referred to as a “blocked quote” because of the way it is “blocked” on the page once you have indented it.

✓ The signal phrase for this type of quotation must be a complete sentence followed by a colon.

✓ Unlike a short direct quotation, the end punctuation comes before the parenthetical citation.

✓ Text within a long quote is always double spaced.

✓ You must have in-text citation to indicate the author of the original source, the date of publication, and the page number from the material.
Long Direct Quotation and In-text Citation... An Example Explained

Even though Lincoln was an admirable statesman, he was considered a far greater rhetorician, authoring the Emancipation Proclamation—one of the key reasons that he is considered perhaps America’s greatest president. The essay by Cross (1996) states the following:

The fact that Lincoln had the foresight to pen such an insightful, far-reaching, and powerful document is a great testimony to his already mammoth powers of observation and the command of the written language. It sometimes seems strange that a simple country farmer could possess such immense power over the written word. (p. 237)

Notice the format of the following items within the long direct quotation above:
1. Signal phrase with author and date
2. Five space indentation of the direct quote
3. Page number
4. Punctuation after quote, but before parenthetical citation
More on reference citations in Unit V

The reference citations for the preceding examples are offered for illustration purposes. Review the Unit V instructional material for a full discussion on how to compile and document an APA Reference Page.
References


