Quotation of Sources

- Use quotation marks to indicate material directly from another source.
- Cite the source by using an author-date system, page number(s) when possible, recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA).
- Quote only when something vital would be lost otherwise, and use only quotes that support your points and provide a unique perspective vital to the arguments in the paper.
- Don’t overuse quotations. Using too many quotes may indicate you lack original thoughts or writing skills.

In-text and parenthetical citations (p. 171)

APA has two formats for documentation: in-text and parenthetical citations. In-text citations introduce the material being cited with a signal phrase that includes the author’s name followed by the year of publication in parentheses. At the end of the quote, the page number of the source is inserted in parentheses at the end of the sentence. The initial “p.” is used in APA.

Example: Poovey (1984) stated “Wollstonecraft’s fundamental insight in Maria concerns the way in which female sexuality is defined or interpreted—and, by extension, controlled—by bourgeois institutions” (p. 100).

If the author’s name is not used in a signal phrase, use a parenthetical citation which includes the author’s last name, year of publication, and the source’s page number(s).

Example: A significant view that readers gain from Wollstonecraft’s Maria is that “female sexuality is defined or interpreted—and, by extension, controlled—by bourgeois institutions” (Poovey, 1984, p. 100).

Length of sources (p. 170-71)

Short quotations: A short quotation is one fewer than forty words.

Example: Desai, Perrone, and Dwyer (2005) have claimed “the patient would be best served by returning to his home country for further psychiatric and medical management prior to transportation” (p. 425).

Long or Block Quotations: Quotations of forty or more words are introduced by an informative sentence followed by a colon. On the next line, indent one inch (two tabs or ten spaces); then, write the quote. Subsequent lines will be in a freestanding block. Double space, but do not use quotation marks. Place any end punctuation before the parenthetical citation. (See the example on the right.)

Regarding the disorder, Olley and Gutentag (1999) stated the following:

In the area of autism, several treatments approaches have elicited considerable debate over the years, such as holding therapy, megavitamin therapy, and facilitated communication (FC). Of such controversial treatment methods, FC is currently the most popularized. This technique involves a “facilitator” to provide physical and emotional support to an individual who has a disability. (p. 25)
APA Format and Documentation: Quoting

**Quotation with one author (p. 174):** Ordinarily, the material being cited with a signal phrase should include the author’s name.

*Example:* Kristi Williams (2003) stated, “women’s workforce participation and relative contributions to household income increase, so does their power within the relationship” (p. 471).

**Quotation with two authors (p. 175):** Cite both names every time you use the source in text.

*Example:* Paxton and Davies (2003) asserted that “a sense of belonging is a key element in an individual’s categorical identity” (p. 35).

**Quotation with three to five authors (p. 175):** Cite all authors the first time the source is used.

*Example:* “Adipose tissue and breast milk,” Paumgarteen, Cruz, Chahoud, Palavinskas, and Mathor (2000) stated, has been “the preferred matrices to evaluate human background contamination” (p. 293).

Use only the last name of the first author followed by “et al.,” thereafter.

*Example:* While the study presents startling information, Paumgartten et al. (2000) heed, “data from the general population of Rio de Janeiro may not reflect the situation of the country as a whole” (p. 296).

**Quotation with six or more authors (p. 175):** Cite only the last name of the first author followed by “et al.” and the year and page number every time you use the source.

*Example:* Lopez-Carrillo et al. (1996) revealed that “exposure to lead is an important health problem in Mexico” (p. 1208).

**Quotation with no author (p. 176):** Cite the first few words of the source, which is usually the title. Wrap double quotation marks around the titles of articles or chapters and format titles of books or periodicals in italics.

*Example:* Since Mary Wollstonecraft’s feminist views were first published, “books like Maria Edgeworth’s *Belinda*, Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*, and Charlotte Dacre’s *Zofloya* have been criticized from a feminist perspective” (“Feminism,” 1985, p. 35).

**Quotation in secondary source (Indirect sources) (p. 178):** An indirect quote occurs when a source you found quotes another source. Whenever possible, locate the original source of the quote to ensure accuracy. If the original source is unavailable, name the author of the original source in a signal phrase, and begin the parenthetical citation with the abbreviation “as cited in” followed by the author of your source and the page number.

*Example:* Päpke confirmed that “human background contamination has declined in Germany and in other Western European countries during the past decade” (as cited in Paumgartten et al., 1999, p. 293).