

# 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 the source is unobtainable, ask a 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 a library loan on 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, they 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 Randstad & 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*. Publisher**

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