

Writing & Documenting in APA

A Concise Guide for GU Students

Introduction

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What is APA?

The term APA refers to a style of writing, including formatting, documentation of sources, tone, organization of ideas, and so on, as determined by the American Psychological Association. For many students, the very idea of having to learn APA, no less to write in that style, is terrifying. We understand that. Most of us felt the same way when we encountered one of these writing styles for the first time. That is exactly what we are doing here. There are several different styles of documentation available to the academic writer (e.g. MLA, Chicago, etc.), depending upon his or her field of study. Here at Grantham, we use the APA style because it best fits the disciplinary needs of most of our degree programs.

We use APA for the following reasons:

1. APA standardizes the way documents appear. For most assignments, teachers evaluate ideas, not one's skills in document design. We use APA to be fair.
2. APA defines the way we should give credit to our sources. We use APA to be transparent.
3. APA helps the organization of the material in a document. If we all present our information in the same way, our readers can engage with our ideas more quickly and more completely. We use APA to be efficient and thorough (Goss, 2012, para. 9).
4. APA is the accepted standard style or, at least, an appropriate style for the fields of study and professions aligned with the overwhelming majority of our degree programs. We use APA to meet industry standards.
5. APA is our established University-wide style because settling on a single style allows us--students, faculty, and administrators--to avoid any confusion resulting from using a variety of styles. We use APA to remain consistent.

Think Monopoly.

Any board game has its own specific rules that everyone who plays has to follow. APA, while arguably more important than a simple board game, is still just that: a game; one with specific rules to follow and certain rewards and penalties for following or not following those rules. This

guide has been put together to help alleviate some of the fear you may have about APA by defining the parameters of the APA environment and by clearly spelling out the way this game works.

Our goal is not to make you APA experts in the short time we have to work together. These things take time to perfect, so you should not expect to learn everything right away. Our goal is instead to make you aware of the basic skills you need to format and write an APA style paper, and to give you the knowledge to explain some basic principles of APA should you run across the topic in a conversation (if this happens, you may need to attend better parties). Learning APA will help you to write better academic papers by helping you to work with the ideas of others while avoiding plagiarism and by helping to organize your ideas more clearly and concisely so they are more easily received by your readers.

Using this Guide

This guide supplements the APA Sample Paper and APA Template, available elsewhere in the course, as well as the Concise Guide to APA Style (7th ed.), which you receive independently.

This guide has been set into four parts: 1. *Plagiarism*; 2. *Academic Tone, Documenting and Citing*; and 3. *Proofreading, APA and the Internet*. Each of these parts build on the information found in the previous parts, but they have also been designed to work as individual reference guides. It is a good idea to read each part in succession, and then reference the work as needed.

We hope this helps you throughout your education here at Grantham University.

**Note that the written materials for this guide are instructional. Though the writers of this course took measures to mirror academic tone when applicable and to strictly follow APA guidelines, the purpose and audience for this course demanded that the writers approached these lessons in a broader format.*

***This guide follows the standardized APA rules set forth in The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).*

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Part One: Avoiding Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

According to the *Grantham University 2019-2020 Student Handbook*: “Plagiarism is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own” (“Plagiarism,” p. 36). When we do this, we are guilty of cheating. Blatant plagiarism is the same as looking at someone else’s paper during an exam and stealing their answers. Plagiarism is, above and beyond all other things, the worst academic crime one can commit. Being found guilty of plagiarism can cause one to fail an assignment, fail a class, or be kicked out of school.

So why do we not simply call plagiarism *cheating*?

Unfortunately, plagiarism is not just about cheating. If it were, we would simply say, “don’t cheat” and then deal with those students who purposefully broke the rules, but there is more to the story.

Plagiarism can also occur when we fail to cite our sources properly or if we rely too heavily on the work of others. As a college student, you will be expected to work with the ideas and words of others, but you will also be expected to learn how to give the necessary credit in the right way. You will be expected to, in most cases, develop and present your own words and ideas, and only use other people to *enhance* what you are saying, not to *dictate* what you are saying.

To put the nature of writing academically into perspective, you need to know that a paper is a written document that demonstrates what you think and know about a topic, and it shows the time you have spent thinking about, analyzing, interacting with, and synthesizing the ideas of others who stand as experts in the field of study.

A paper is a reflection of your ideas, not a reflection of what you have read.

We give these experts credit through in-text and References page documentation. We will talk more about that as we move forward in the class, but it is never too early to start thinking about this process. We cite our sources for two reasons: First, because the author worked to develop his or her own ideas, and it is unethical to steal those ideas; second, and possibly the more important of our reasons, we identify our sources so our readers can engage in the same research we did, should they choose to, and be better able to understand what we are saying.

If you would like to understand more about plagiarism so you can avoid it in your future work, the following tutorial should help you stay on the right path.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Terms to Know: If you are unfamiliar with these terms please review them in the Glossary.

- **Block quotation**
- **Copyright**
- **Direct quotation**
- **Paraphrase**
- **Summary**
- **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is presenting the ideas or work of others (including other students) as one's original work. A student is required to acknowledge all sources of submitted work. Specifically, each student must acknowledge direct quotations, paraphrases, ideas, figures, tables, charts, statistics, images, photographs, source codes, circuits, and other sources. Papers and other materials either given to the student or obtained otherwise, if submitted as the work of anyone except the source, constitute a violation of the code of conduct. ("Plagiarism," 2020, p. 36)

To be more specific, plagiarism includes:

1. Copying word for word from the web or other source and using it in your paper or discussion forum post as “your” writing.
2. Paraphrasing from a source without giving credit.
3. Paraphrasing incorrectly even if you provided a citation. As a general rule, no more than three words in a row should match the source document. Your sentence organization should not mirror that of the original document.

Types of Plagiarism

When the subject of plagiarism comes up, students will often respond with: “What if the plagiarism was unintentional?” This is a good question. While your instructors will work to help you improve your citation skills, it is ultimately your responsibility to learn to avoid these unintentional errors. Still, we do make a distinction between types of plagiarism.

Blatant Plagiarism: Blatant plagiarism occurs when a student presents a piece of writing that has very little original student work. These papers are often pieced together from several online sources or they match another piece of writing word-for-word. This type of plagiarism is *blatant*; it is cheating and therefore cannot be accepted for credit and is subject to punitive action. Do not, under any circumstances, turn in a piece of writing that is not your own work. If you are caught, you will not like the results.

Improper Documentation: Improper documentation happens when a student paper has several documentation errors that result in plagiarism, but most of the paper was authored by the student. This usually happens when students are in a rush, haven’t read the course material, or they didn’t understand the rules for APA style. Many students might consider these errors to be unintentional, but managing time, reading the course material, and asking for clarification on assignments are all student responsibilities. Learning how and when to cite is therefore, incredibly important. Until you are completely comfortable with the process:

1. Review the Documentation Section of this APA guide.
2. Ask your instructor for clarification.
3. Submit your paper to the Writing Center for review.
4. Run your paper through a plagiarism checker.
5. If you don’t have time to do the above, ask your instructor for a lesson extension. It is better to request more time than to submit a document with errors.

Buying, purchasing, copying, or piece-mailing the work of others and turning it in as your own is NOT unintentional plagiarism.

How do I give credit to a source?

You must include a citation after each quote or paraphrased or summarized passage. You must also have a References page attached to the end of your paper. The citation in text should always

pair with a citation in the reference page. If you have unmatched citations in either the body of your text or the reference page, your instructor may suspect plagiarism.

When we work with the ideas or creations of others, we have to document where we found our information. We do this for two reasons:

1. Not to do so is cheating.
2. So we can track information to its original source to verify its validity and expand our knowledge on the subject.

If we were to write the following passage, for example, we would need to cite within the text of our paper:

Proponents for Global Warming claim that due to industrialization, the earth is getting warmer. The impact of this, they claim, could be catastrophic. (We have all heard this so it would not need to be cited.) James Benson (2010), of the Center for Oceanographic Studies, claims that the Larson B ice shelf is about to drop off into the ocean. This alone, he says, would cause ocean levels to raise twelve feet world-wide, effectively covering a large portion of the earth's most populated areas in sea water (Benson, 2010). (Because we have stated specific information, we would need to cite this.) If what Benson is saying is true, the need to immediately examine our industrial practices is of vital importance. (Here, we are adding our own conclusions, though they are certainly not so different from what Benson is likely getting at.)

Opponents of Global Warming claim that the earth is simply going through a natural warming trend and that the rising temperatures have little or nothing to do with human industry. "There is no proof," states Jeffrey Winters (2010), ecologist and speaker for the Industrial Progress Initiative, "that any of our industrial practices have anything to do with rising temperatures in the ocean. In fact," he continues, "the Global Warming rhetoric cannot support the dire scenarios it is proposing and is detrimental to the advancement of the American economy at a time when we should not be discussing regulation over prosperity" (Winters, 2010, p. 17). (Here, we are using a direct quotation, so we absolutely need to cite it.) Winters, through this statement, exposes the real issue here--that this is not about whether the earth is warming or not, but instead, this is a debate over stewardship of the planet and the need for a growing economy. This argument, it seems, is about how to create jobs and still protect the environment, not about how to avoid causing a natural disaster. (These are our own conclusions, so they do not need to be cited.)

We've cited in the text, but we're not done yet; now we have to put together our References page:

References

Benson, J. (2010). Larson B and the tide of humanity. *Nature*, 84, 391-409. doi:10.1037/0278-6134.25.3.334

Winters, J. (2010). What's wrong with crying global warming? *Modern Industry*, 2(2), 5-25.

Notice how the in-text citations within the text are paired with the citations in the References page. In-text citations are like tabs in the text. If we are reading the above text, for instance, and we want to know more about what we are reading, we can simply find the in-text citation—Benson, for example—and then find the full citation in the References page. That way, we can look up the original author, track the progression of this idea, verify its validity, and find out more about the topic.

As writers, we make choices about what to add into our work, and what to leave out. By providing our sources, we don't just give the proper credit to those who informed our work, we also are able to afford our readers the opportunity to experience the things we could not fit into our paper.

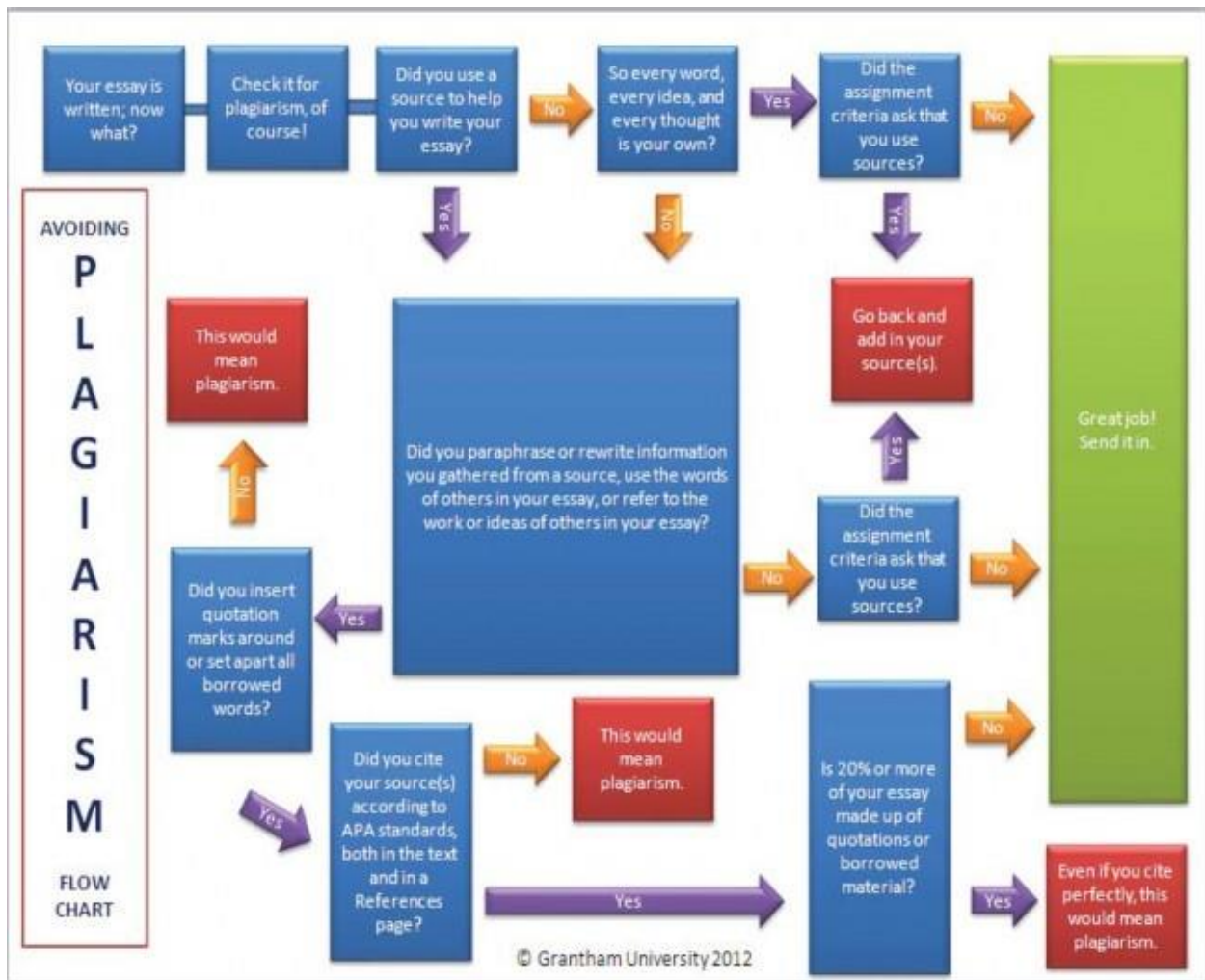
**Note that the passages in the above examples are for illustrative purposes only. These are not real sources and do not reflect actual facts.*

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism:

1. If you quote from a source you need an in-text citation and a work-cited entry.
2. Anything copied word-for-word must be inside of quotation marks.
3. If you paraphrase from your source, you need an in-text citation and a References page entry.
4. If you have a lengthy quote (forty words or more), according to APA guidelines, you will need to indent it as a block quotation. Be careful with long quotations. Anything more than 20% of your paper in quotations can be counted as plagiarism. Remember that quotes and paraphrased material should support your writing, not take it over.
5. Quotes and paraphrasing must be properly integrated into your paper. An entire paragraph of paraphrased material might set off a plagiarism checker. Once again, your researched material should play a supporting role and not a lead role. Never produce a paragraph that is 100% quoted or cited material.

6. You should never cut-and-paste an online paper or article and submit it as your work. This is blatant plagiarism and it will be reported to the university for possible punitive action.
7. Be careful when using quoted material found inside of your source (secondary sources). If you want to use the quotation, it is good practice to search for the original article online and cite the original work. Not citing a secondary source properly can red- flag your paper for plagiarism. If you use quoted material from another source, cite the primary source and add the word In to the citation: (In Greives, 2004).
8. Do not use papers you have written for other classes or published papers. This includes papers you submitted on a blog or anywhere else on the Internet. Submitting previously written material for a lesson in class is called self-plagiarism. Self-plagiarism is prohibited at Grantham University.
9. Never post any content (lessons, lesson directions, tests, etc) anywhere on the Internet as this violates copyright laws. All of the lessons, tests, and texts found in GLIFE and your ANGEL courses are copyrighted by Grantham University. Students do not have permission to paste or upload Grantham material on the web - period. If a student is found to have posted Grantham materials (lessons, questions, tests, etc) on the Internet this could lead to expulsion from the University and serious legal trouble. Violating copyright law is not just an academic blunder, it is also a crime.
10. Never cut and paste word-for-word material into your document with the intention of applying proper documentation later. Always write first and add your research later. Do not take short cuts with your documentation. Make 3x5 note cards or keep a list documenting the raw data on every article you think you may use, along with the passage you plan to either directly quote or paraphrase.

A Visual Guide to Help Avoid Plagiarism



(Komm, 2012)

References

Komm, A. (2012). *Avoiding plagiarism flow chart*. In *Grantham University: University Catalog and Student Handbook*.

http://www.grantham.edu/public_media/PDF-University-Catalog-2012.pdf

“Plagiarism.” (2020). *Grantham University 2019-2020 Student Handbook*.

Grantham University. <https://www.grantham.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/student-handbook.pdf>

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Part Three: Academic Tone, Documentation, and Citing

Academic Tone and APA

Terms to Know: If you are unfamiliar with these terms, please review them in the Glossary.

- point of view
- first person
- second person
- third person
- contractions
- sexist language
- cliches

While not everything you will be asked to write will follow strict academic tone, it is important to get to know the difference between writing in a personal environment, a professional environment, and in the academic environment (i.e. a University classroom, including an online classroom such as this). Throughout the course, you see a great deal of attention paid to the importance of taking your reader into account. In no situation, perhaps, is this more true than when one is writing for an academic (i.e. scholarly) audience, including adhering to APA style.

Note the differences in style and tone in the following examples. In each instance, each of the three statements communicates more or less the same idea (to a greater or lesser extent), but does so in a style and with a tone distinguishing it from the other statements

Example One:

Personal

I'm going to have to cancel the game tonight. It's raining cats and dogs and the field is underwater. We'll pick this up next week.

Professional

Due to excessive water on the field caused by the rain, the employee softball game will be canceled tonight. Per company policy, we will reschedule the game for next week.

Academic

Weather delays are one of the few drawbacks for outdoor sports. Often, rain causes games to be either delayed or rescheduled. Such were the circumstances in the case of the game originally scheduled for this evening, which will have to be rescheduled due to a rainfall of more than four inches within the last twenty-four hours.

Example Two:

Personal:

You really shouldn't wear such revealing clothing at work. It's distracting and you might get sent home or fired.

Professional:

All employees at DCH Lenders should wear appropriate clothing while working. Appropriate clothing guidelines are set forth in the employee handbook and published on the company website.

Academic:

Professionals should refer to established company policies when choosing their work attire. Many corporations require traditional, formal, attire of their employees in order to positively impress the public, specifically clients and potential clients, and to minimize distractions to their employees in the workplace. DCH Lenders, for example, sets specific dress codes for their employees and communicate those policies through their employee handbook and company website.

Notice the increased formality of the Professional style in comparison with the Personal style. The professionally styled text is matter of fact, reading almost as if it were a legal document. Now, compare both the examples of the Professional and Personal style with the examples of Academic style. What differences do you notice? Like the examples of the Professional style, the Academic style is more formal than the personal, and more detailed and precise than either the Personal or Professional style.

The examples of the Personal style may rely upon a degree of familiarity between writer and reader, which allows for merely suggestive statements as “you really shouldn't wear such revealing clothing at work ...” (e.g. what qualifies as “revealing?”). The Professional style may be concise in its own, direct, way (e.g. statements may read as pronouncements because --in the case of the dress code--the author is simply issuing employees a directive, not trying to convince them of the justice of the dress code in question). Contrastingly, the examples of the Academic style are not only formal in tone, they are far more detailed than those of the other styles because they must present the academic reader with precise evidence of the claims being made.

Documentation: Overview

This section provides a broad overview of using citations. For more instructions and examples, see the *Concise Guide to APA Style* that has been provided to you.

Terms to Know: If you are unfamiliar with these terms please review them in the Glossary.

- attributive tag
- citation
- documentation
- in-text citation
- source

When utilizing ideas other than your own in a document of your own authorship, whether it is a chapter from your Grantham text, a quote from an article you have found through your research, or a personal interview, **always** attribute those ideas to their authors (i.e you **always** need to do the following):

- **Integrate the borrowed idea with your original ideas.** This is done by using attributive tags (also known as signal phrases).
- **Provide an in-text citation.** This means that you need to include an abbreviated citation of your source material in the body of your paper. In-text citations should always appear after the borrowed the material and not at the end of each paragraph. This signals to the reader that what they just read was borrowed material and the in-text citation will give them the information they need to find that particular source in the reference page.
- **Create a full list of the research sources used at the end of the paper.** This is an alphabetized list that provides the reader with the full data they need to locate the article. A basic citation will include the following: author's name, source title, and the full publication information.

We will discuss how we do these three things throughout this guide. Our goal, in terms of documentation, is to help you construct a basic understanding of how and where to cite your sources, so that this process becomes a natural step in your writing process and so it will not be so difficult to do in your later coursework.

Here at Grantham University you will be expected to adhere to APA style. With that in mind, anytime a source is used in a paper an in-text citation, a References page is needed to give credit to the author of the original idea.

Basic APA Constructions

Each reference or source within an APA-style paper appears in two places: 1). within the text following a quotation, summarized, or paraphrased passage, and 2). in a References page. In-text citations (aka. parenthetical citations) show what material is being used at what point within the text, while References page citations show where that reference or source can be found externally.

APA citations are constructed using a basic format:

In-Text Citations

- When using a source or reference, you need to create an in-text citation that includes three basic elements:
- The author's or authors' last names—if no author, use the first five or fewer words of the title of the source. Encase the title in quotation marks.
- The year of publication—if no year, use the letters **n.d.** (meaning “no date”)
- The page or paragraph number—page numbers are preceded with **p.** for one page, **pp.** for multiple pages. Paragraphs are used if there are no page numbers and are preceded with **para.** Page and paragraph numbers are needed only if you cite a specific part of a source, such as a quote.
- These elements should appear within parentheses and follow the quotation or information being cited.
 - (author's last name, the year of publication, and the page or paragraph number)

For Example:

(Collins et al., 2004, pp. 341-349).

(Phillips, n.d., para. 7).

(“Eating with style,” 1987, p. 116).

References Page Citations

References page citations are grouped on their own page at the end of a paper. The first word or words of the Reference page citation should match the corresponding first word or words of the in-text citation.

References page citations can take on many forms, however, they do follow a basic structure.

- The last name of the author or authors, each followed by their first initial(s)

- The year of publication (add the month if available)
- The name of the text
- If part of a collection (website, anthology, journal, magazine, etc.), the name of that source The publisher

After this stage, References page citations fluctuate depending on the type of text being cited.

BASIC CITATION EXAMPLES (References page and in-text citations)

The following list reflects some of the more common citations you will likely use throughout your education. Reference page listings are given, followed by two types of in-text citations: *parenthetical citations* and *narrative citations*. Use parenthetical citations when no part of the source is mentioned in the sentence or passage that borrows material from the work. For variety, use narrative citations—where the author or source is mentioned in your sentence or passage—from time to time. Examples of signal phrases (*claimed*, *argued*, *according to*) are included in the examples below.

Book

Harris, J. (2006). *Rewriting: How to do things with texts*. Utah State University Press.

Parenthetical citation: (Harris, 2006, p. 24).

Narrative citation: Harris (2006) claimed . . . (p. 24).

Chapter or Section within a Book

Braddock, R., Lloyd-Jones, R., & Schoer, L. (2009). From Research in Written Composition. In S. Miller (Ed.), *The Norton book of composition studies*. (pp. 193-215). W. W. Norton and Company.

Parenthetical citation: (Braddock et al., 2009, pp. 193-215).

Narrative citation: According to Braddock et al. (2009), . . . (pp. 193-215)

Online Journal Article with doi

Bercovitch, F. B., & Berry, P. M. (2012). Ecological determinates of herd size in the Thornicroft's giraffe of Zambia. *African Journal of Ecology*, 48(4), 962-971. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2009.01198.x

Parenthetical citation: (Bercovitch & Berry, 2012, 969-970)

Narrative citation: Bercovitch and Berry (2012) stated . . . (pp. 969-970).

Journal Article without doi

Stanczak, S. (2009). Write what you know, and know what you write. *Writer*, 122(11).

Parenthetical citation: (Stanczak, 2009, p. 14).

Narrative citation: Stanczak (2009) argued . . . (p. 14).

Corporate Author or Government Report

If there are multiple layers of the agency, list the most specific agency as the author and the parent agency as the publisher. Include retrieval dates only if the work is likely or meant to change over time.

National Trails Intermountain Region. (2012). *About Challenge Cost Share FY 2012*. National Park Service. Retrieved November 13, 2014, from https://www.nps.gov/trte/learn/management/%20upload/About-CCSP-FY12-SF_SB.pdf

First Citation:

Parenthetical citation: (National Trails Intermountain Region, 2012, para. 4).

Narrative citation: According to the National Trails Intermountain Region (2012), . . . (para. 4).

Subsequent Citation:

Parenthetical citation: (NTIR, 2012, para. 4).

Narrative citation: According to NTIR (2012), . . . (para. 4).

Motion Picture

List the director as author of the film. The rules for listing TV series, episodes, and DVD commentaries differ. Consult the *Concise Guide to APA Style* (7th ed.).

Van Sant, G. (Director). (2000). *Finding Forrester* [Film]. Columbia.

Parenthetical citation: (Van Sant, 2000).

Narrative citation: As stated in Van Sant (2000), . . .

Legal Case

Missouri v. Cuffley, 927 F. Supp. 1248 (E.D. Mo 1996).

<https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/927/1248/2092166/>

Parenthetical citation: (*Missouri v. Cuffley*, 1996).

Narrative citation: According to *Missouri v. Cuffley* (1996), . . .

Website or Newspaper

Bomey, N. (2020, June 15). The coronavirus pandemic can't stop Americans from buying pickup trucks. *USA Today*. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2020/06/15/pickup-truck-sales-covid-19-pandemic-coronavirus/5345096002/>

Parenthetical citation: (Bomey, 2020, para. 2).

Narrative citation: Bomey (2020) found that . . . (para. 2).

Blog

Swenson, B. (2020, June 11). Enhancing your leadership skills at Grantham University.

Grantham University. <https://www.grantham.edu/blog/enhancing-your-leadership-skills-at-grantham-university/>

Parenthetical citation: (Swenson, 2020, para. 6)

Narrative citation: Swenson (2020) stated . . . (para. 6)

Ideas to Remember:

- **APA is the only approved documentation style at Grantham University**
- **The EBSCOhost Database is the preferred research source for many Grantham classes**
- **Students should include in-text citations and a references page for outside sources used in a paper, journal, or other writing assignment. APA documentation in discussion forums is also highly encouraged in all courses and required in many. If you don't know how this works in your particular class, ask your instructor.**

Citation Generators in EBSCO and Elsewhere

There are many citation tools that will help you create citations. EBSCO even lists APA citations for most sources. However, citation tools are not perfect, and you will need to check your citations, even those in EBSCO, against this guide or the *Concise Guide to APA Style* (7th ed.).

Some common citation errors include the following:

Listing Group Authors as Individual Authors:

Incorrect: PR, N (2019)

Correct: NPR (2019)

Listing Author Initials in In-Text Citations:

Incorrect: (Stanczak, S., 2009)

Correct: (Stanczak, 2009)

Listing Author Names in All Capital Letters:

Incorrect: Friedman, T. L., & MANDELBAUM, M. (2011)

Correct: Friedman, T. L., & Mandelbaum, M. (2011)

Titles with Capitalization after the First Word:

Incorrect:

Swenson, B. (2020, June 11). Enhancing your Leadership Skills at Grantham University.

Grantham University. <https://www.grantham.edu/blog/enhancing-your-leadership-skills-at-grantham-university/>

Correct:

Swenson, B. (2020, June 11). Enhancing your leadership skills at Grantham University.

Grantham University. <https://www.grantham.edu/blog/enhancing-your-leadership-skills-at-grantham-university/>

Incorrect Format of Volume, Issue, and Page Numbers:

Incorrect:

Bercovitch, F. B., & Berry, P. M. (2012). Ecological determinates of herd size in the Thornicroft's giraffe of Zambia. *African Journal of Ecology*, volume 48, issue 4, pp. 962-971.

Correct:

Bercovitch, F. B., & Berry, P. M. (2012). Ecological determinates of herd size in the Thornicroft's giraffe of Zambia. *African Journal of Ecology*, 48(4), 962-971.

What is a doi?

Because the URLs of web sites and other web-based/online resources we need to reference can often change as sites, databases, etc. reorganize/relocate their contents, it is important to provide your readers with a stable link to the online materials you cite. Some online content providers now provide an alphanumeric code, known as a DOI (an acronym standing for Digital Object Identifier). If a source you cite provides a DOI, you should include it in your citation instead of the URL, placing it in the space that would otherwise be occupied by the URL in the citation in question. However, if the content provider does not make a DOI available to you should reference the URL for site, database, etc. in question.

In-Text Citation Examples

one author	(Oates, 2010)
two authors	(Collette & Bradbury, 2009)
three or more authors	(Martinez et al., 2011)
corporate or group author, with abbreviation	First citation: (Federation of European Biochemical Societies, 1967); subsequent citation: (FEBS, 1967)
no author	(“Bridging the Gap,” 2020) (Anonymous, 2020) --Use “Anonymous” only if the author is credited as such.

Attributive Tags / Signal Phrases

In order to help introduce our sources, it is always best to introduce quoted, paraphrased, or summarized material with an attributive tag (also known as a signal phrase). An attributive tag is simply an introduction of the author and/or his or her work.

For instance, we could say:

“All ducks like pickles” (Wheelhouse, 2007, p. 27).

But our words would sound more credible were we to say:

According to Arthur Wheelhouse (2007), “All ducks like pickles” (p. 27).

If we can find the authors credentials, we can make this even better (we refer to this as “qualifying the source”):

According to Pulitzer Prize winning author and naturalist Arthur Wheelhouse (2007), “All ducks like pickles” (p. 27).

Now we pay attention. There must be something to that duck and pickle connection. After all, if an award-winning author is talking about it, it must be important, right?

The attribute tag can be used to lend credibility to your quoted source. Therefore, if the goal of your paper is to argue about a hot political topic, you would want to point out that the author of

the quote you are about to use is a political science professor. If you are discussing a children's health topic you would want to note that your quotation is from a pediatrician. Always look at the fine print that follows your article and check the author's credentials so you can use them to your advantage in an argument or claim.

Another goal of the attributive tag is to help readers identify the author of the quotation as they read it. They will then be able to locate the full source citation in your references, and if interested, they will have the information they need to find the full text by that particular author.

Basic Formula for Integrating Quotations

Patrick Star (2012) declared, ". . ."
author's full name + year + attributive tag

If we qualify our source, we might say:

Marine life expert Patrick Star (2012) stated, ". . ."
If we have already used a quotation from the same author, we only use his or her last name:

Star claimed, "..."

Though we may feel a real connection to our sources, we are never on a first-name basis with them. We can never say, "Patrick claims . . .;" we have to say, "Star claims"

It should be noted that attributive tags are not always at the beginning of a quotation. Sometimes we need to mix things up.

Beginning of Sentence:

In his 2008 article "Fat Toddlers" Ronald Fry suggests that "There are too many fat toddlers these days! Parents need to cut back on the amount of sugary snacks and processed food that they feed their children" (p. 9).

Middle of Sentence:

There are too many fat toddlers these days!" exclaims Ronald Fry in his 2008 article, "Fat Toddlers" "Parents need to cut back on the amount of sugary snacks and processed food that they feed their children" (p. 9).

End of Sentence:

“There are too many fat toddlers these days! Parents need to cut back on the amount of sugary snacks and processed food that they feed their children” suggests Ronald Fry in his 2008 article, “Fat Toddlers” (p. 9).

Common Attributive Verbs

The following list contains verbs commonly used in signal phrases:

claims contends emphasizes explains expresses illustrates implies maintains
points out presents proposes disputes reports states suggests writes

Block Quotations

In APA style, if you use a quotation that is 40 words or longer, you must format your quotation according to the following rules:

1. Like all other text in the paper, block quotations are double-spaced.
2. Block quotations are set apart from the rest of the text as if they are their own paragraph.
3. All lines in block quotations should be indented ½ inch (one tab) from the left margin (the first line should not be further indented).
4. Citations should not be included in the end punctuation.
5. Quotation marks should be removed.

For example:

In response to Howard Faulkner's book (2000), *The Rules of the Game: An Introductory English Grammar*, Timothy P. Goss (2012), an English instructor at Grantham University and author of several guides to writing offers the following explanation:

What Faulkner is saying is that, though the English language will eventually accept today's colloquialisms (common language) in formal settings, and while trends in grammar are changing, a poor mastery of current grammar practices causes the speaker to appear socially unrefined, and the misuse of language limits the power of what the speaker is attempting to communicate. Even more importantly for most of us, the misuse of current grammar rules can directly affect the size of one's wallet. (p. 2).

If Goss is correct in his interpretations of Faulkner's work, it would seem communicating effectively is much more important than, how many imagine it to be, merely pleasing one's English teacher and the occasional "grammar geek."

(Goss, 2012)

References

Goss, T. P. (2012). *A case for clarity*. [Unpublished manuscript].

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Writing & Documenting in APA

A Concise Guide for GU Students

Part Four: Proofreading; APA & the Internet



Proofreading for APA style

As we move into the final stage of this writing project, it might be a good idea to go back and review the entire APA guide to ensure that you have all of the pieces in place for this final step. Throughout this tutorial, we will discuss some of the key areas you need to look at when proofreading to make sure your paper meets APA standards.

Checking your Work

This checklist should be used to ensure that your papers and documents are in proper APA style.

Formatting:

- Font used is easily readable on a computer screen, such as 12-pt. Times New Roman, 11-pt. Calibri, or 11-pt. Arial.
- One inch margins on all sides.
- Page number is top, flush right, starting on the title page

In-text Citations:

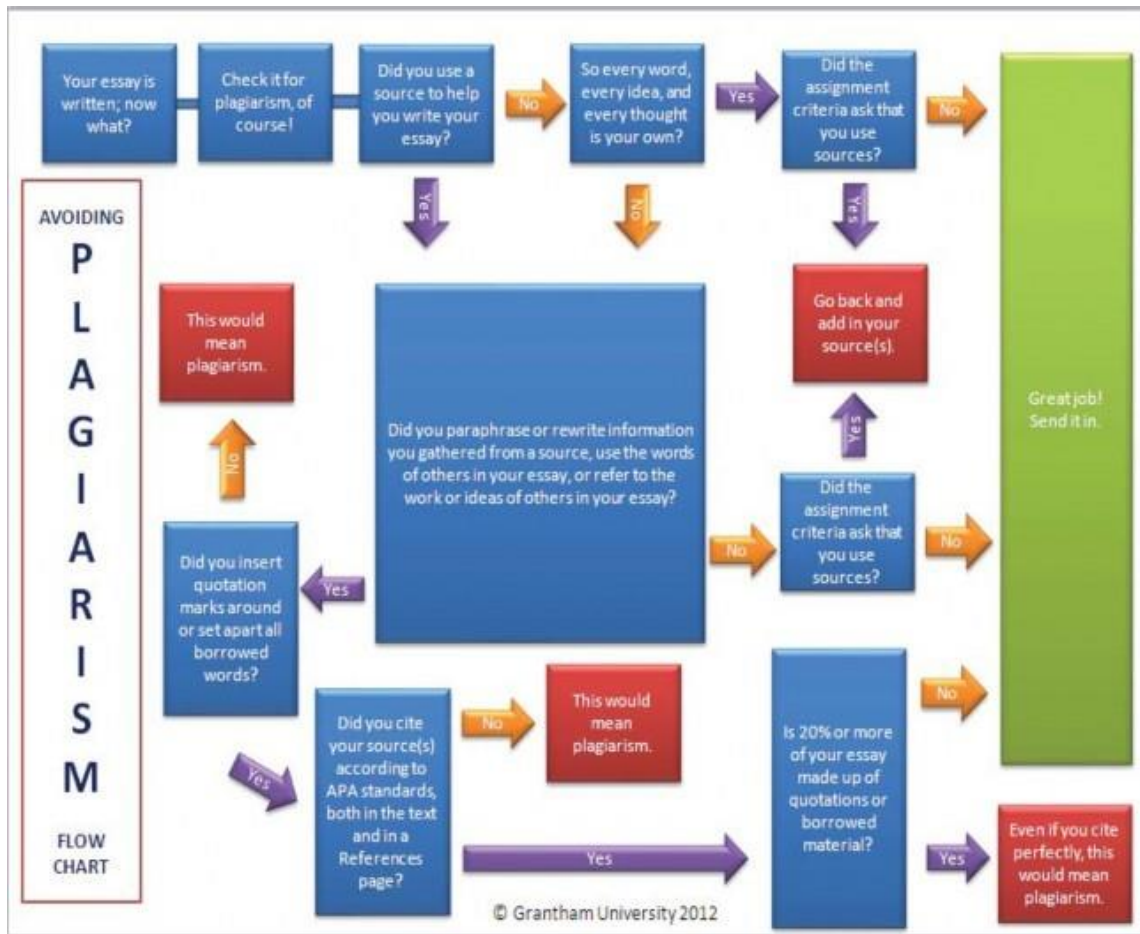
- Do you provide appropriate in-text (i.e. parenthetical) citations for all uses of external source material?
- Do those in-text (i.e. parenthetical) citations include all of the necessary information (e.g. author name(s), dates)?

- Do those in-text (i.e. parenthetical) citations precede the final punctuation of the sentences in which they appear?

Reference Page:

- Is your References page separated from the last page of your paper with a page break? It is important that your References page begin at the top of a new page immediately following the last page of the text of your essay, report, paper, etc. So, you need to insert a page break (e.g. see the “insert” menu if using Microsoft Word) after the last line of the text of your paper, rather than using the Return/Enter key, to ensure that your list of References begins at the top of the following page.
- Is your References page formatted according to the guidelines outlined above (e.g. is the title References centered)?
- Are lines following the first line in each entry, indented appropriately? Hint: the way to ensure proper indentation is by setting/changing the hanging indent within your document, rather than by using space or tab key.

Remember to Check Your Paper for Possible Plagiarism:



(Komm, 2012)

APA and the Internet

Terms to Know: If you are unfamiliar with these terms please review them in the Glossary.

database
 online library
 search engine
 credible sources
 paper mill
 message boards

In many of your classes at Grantham, you will be expected to use the EBSCO library database for your research paper and any other formal papers. Many students will often say, “I prefer to use Google for my research.” While Google is a fantastic Internet search engine, it is not a library database. Google will lead you to everything that is out there on the web and while some of the search results are credible, many are not. Google Books and Google Scholar can be more

useful to academic researchers, but they do not provide academic research with as many full-text resources as does the University’s official free library research database, EBSCO, which is a collection of scholarly journals, newspapers, and documents that a person might find in an on-ground university library.

With that being said, in discussions and in your journal, you might find that you want to use a source from the Internet. Perhaps you want to share an idea you found at a particular website or you want to talk about a YouTube Video. This chapter will help you decide which sources to use and which sources to avoid.

Characteristics of a Credible Website

- **Identifiable:** the site and its content can be positively attributed to a recognizable publication (e.g. scholarly journal, research database, major newspaper) or institution (e.g. local, county, state, or federal government agencies); can be attributed to an author or group of authors (preferable but not essential).
- **Impartial:** while complete impartiality is, perhaps, unattainable, it is important that those sites you reference in support of your arguments demonstrate as little bias as possible relative to the question(s) at issue you address in your argument(s).
- **Substantiated:** include primary source data and/or appropriately formatted citations of relevant primary source material verifiable citations

Credible Sites	<p>Online Libraries: <i>EBSCO, Internet Public Library</i></p> <p>.edu: <i>Grantham University, Purdue Owl, Harvard University, etc.</i></p> <p>Newsources & Newspapers: <i>CNN, NPR, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, etc.</i></p> <p>.gov: <i>Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; United States Department of Agriculture; Federal Student Aid Information Center, etc.</i></p> <p>online periodicals: <i>New Yorker, Time, U.S. News, etc.</i></p>
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<p>Use With Extreme Caution</p>	<p>Professional blogs: Even the most credible of these should never be used as a primary source. Even as a secondary source, it is important to vet the authors of such blogs for their credibility concerning the topic in question.</p> <p>.orgs - avoid political, controversial, or overtly biased organizations.</p> <p>Wikipedia: this very popular, collaborative, online encyclopedia is a great tool for acquainting oneself with a wide variety of topics, but, like other encyclopedias, (e.g. Encyclopedia Britannica) it is a reference work offering cursory information that is not peer-reviewed. Wikipedia cannot be considered a repository of scholarly work and should therefore never be used as a source in academic writing.</p> <p>Dotdash.com (formerly About.com): similar to Wikipedia in that it is not vetted. Articles are written by paid contributors. Reliability is questionable.</p> <p>YouTube: as with Wikipedia, YouTube is not a vetted academic source of information. In a rare video or two, there may be scholars discussing scholarly things, but unless you vet the author and the venue, it's best to avoid this as a source.</p>
<p>Avoid</p>	<p>Paper mills, custom essay sites: consultation of such sites likely constitutes plagiarism.</p> <p>Tutoring sites: you run the risk of committing an act of academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism) by consulting such sites.</p> <p>Personal blogs and websites: bloggers and cyber-authors who lack certifiable credibility on specific topics lack the ability to substantiate your arguments and, thus, should be avoided.</p> <p>Q&A sites (e.g. Ask.com, Yahoo Answers): these are watered-down versions of About.com at best and should, thus, be avoided as they do your arguments no credit whatsoever.</p> <p>Online Chatroom/Discussion Board messages: chatrooms and discussion forums are useful ways to communicate with others interested/invested in particular topics (e.g. your classmates within the Cybercafe and the other course-based Discussion Forums). But, messages posted online are not sources of research on which you can rely in substantiating your arguments.</p> <p>Freelance article sites (e.g. Helium, Associated Content): these lack sufficient credibility to support your own arguments.</p>

References

Komm, A. (2012). *Avoiding plagiarism flow chart*. Grantham University, Kansas City, MO.

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