

## Citing Sources & Avoiding Plagiarism in APA Format

- Make sure you appropriately cite information when necessary using in-text citations and a reference list.
  - An in-text citation looks like this (Adams, 2012).
    - According to Adams (2012), an in-text citation can also be written into the sentence, as this example shows.
    - Van Buren (2014) similarly uses in-text citations this way.
  - If the source has multiple authors, your citation will look like this (Adams, Jefferson, & Madison, 2012).
    - The second time you cite a source that has multiple authors, you do not have to write each name (Adams et al., 2012).
    - Or, as noted by Adams et al. (2012), you can incorporate the citation directly in the sentence.
- Try to paraphrase the author's words and use direct quotes sparingly. If you must use a direct quote, "make sure you include the page number in your citation" (Van Buren, 2014, p. 8).
  - You may also write: Van Buren (2014) states that you must "include the page number in your citation" when using direct quotes (p. 8).
  - If there are no page numbers in your source, "cite the direct quote by indicating the paragraph number from which the quote was taken" (Roosevelt, 2011, para. 6).
- If the source has no author, cite the sponsoring organization (The White House, 2015).
- Include each of your sources in a Reference List (for APA) or Works Cited page (for MLA), listing each source in alphabetical order.
  - Make sure you ask your professor which format he or she prefers!
- The following website will guide you in correctly citing information in a variety of formats, including APA, MLA, and Chicago Style:
  - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/> (or just Google "OWL at Purdue")
  - Helpful hint for citing websites in APA format: the above site refers to a website as a "Nonperiodical Web Document."