APA Style In-Text Citations

What is APA Style?
American Psychological Association style is used to cite sources in scientific and research papers, journal articles, and papers. Citations must appear both in-text and on a references page.

In-text citations
References that appear in the text of your paper must include the author or source’s name, the date the source was published, and, if a direct quote, the page number (for print sources) or paragraph number (for electronic sources). Page or paragraph numbers can also be cited in a paraphrase to help your reader find information, but they are not required. End punctuation always appears after the parentheses in your citation.

1. Basic format for a quotation
   Critser (2003) noted that despite growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5).

   OR

   Despite the growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (Crister, 2003, p. 5).

2. Basic format for a summary or a paraphrase
   Graff and Birkenstein (2010) advised writers to consider all objections a reader may raise and address them in counterarguments. *(optional parenthetical reference at the end of the sentence: p. 91)*

   OR

   It is important for writers to consider all objections a reader may raise and address them in counterarguments (Graff & Birkenstein, 2010). *(optional parenthetical reference at the end of the sentence: p. 91)*

3. Quote or Paraphrase with more than one author
   When quoting a source with more than one author, each author’s name will always appear on your references page, but not always in-text. When a source has *three or more authors*, the words *et al.* appear behind the first author’s name *only after you have named all authors in the first use of the source*. The exception to this rule is when a work has six or more authors, every in-text citation will contain the author’s first name followed by *et al.*
McDuffie et al. (2002) tested 20 adolescents, aged 12-16, over a three-month period and found that orlistat, combined with behavioral therapy, produced an average weight loss of 4.4 kg, or 9.7 pounds.

4. **Organization as author/unknown author**
   Sometimes studies or articles will be published by an organization or the author is unknown. In this case, mention the organization or introduce the title of the work at the beginning of the sentence in which you refer to the source.

   Obesity puts children at risk for a number of medical complications, including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, and orthopedic problems (Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2004, p. 1).

5. **Using sources without page numbers**
   Some sources (such as many online sources) do not contain page numbers. When using electronic sources where paragraph breaks are visible, cite the paragraph number are you would page numbers.

   Basu and Jones (2007) went so far as to suggest the need for a new “intellectual framework in which to consider the nature and form of regulation in cyberspace” (para. 4).

6. **Citing or quoting someone else in your source**
   Although it is preferable to always use information from a primary source (directly from the authors you are citing), sometimes experts are quoted or cited in a source you are using and you can’t find the original source. In cases such as these, you must indicate you do not have the primary source in your parenthetical citation. You parenthetical reference would appear as follows:
   For paraphrased material (as cited in author’s last name, year)
   For quoted material (as quoted in author's last name, year, p. #)