Using and Applying In-text citations

You will use in-text citations at St Patrick’s College if you are using an author/date referencing system, e.g.:

- APA
- Harvard
- MLA

There are two ways you can use other people’s ideas in your work, by direct quotation or paraphrasing.

You use a **direct quotation** when you use the actual words of an author in exactly the same order as in their original work.

**Paraphrasing** is when you express someone else’s writing in your own words, usually to help achieve greater clarity. This is an alternative way of referring to an author’s ideas or arguments without using direct quotations from their text.

If used correctly, paraphrasing has the benefit of fitting your own style of writing. However, it is important you do not change the original meaning and you still must cite and reference the source of your information.

**In-text citations** give brief details of the work that you are quoting from, or to which you are referring to in your text. This in-text citation alerts the reader to a source you have used to inform your own writing. The information in the citation must correspond to the entry in the reference list or works cited list at the end of your paper.

The in-text citation is usually presented in brackets directly after the text you have quoted or paraphrased so it is easy for the reader to identify where you have found your information.

**Your citation should follow this format:**

- Author or editor’s surname
- Year of publication, (followed by a comma)
- Page number (p.) or page numbers (pp.) if required
Examples

At the end of the sentence:

‘Evaluating whether teachers promote learning is one thing, while evaluating whether they raise student test scores is another’ (Papay 2012, pp.131-132).

OR

Within your sentence:

Educational bodies – accrediting agencies, boards of education, and school boards – must acknowledge that assessment of teaching performance may focus on different issues. Papay (2012) observed that “evaluating whether teachers promote student learning is one thing, while evaluating whether they raise student test scores is another” (pp. 131-132)

Reference list entry for this example:


Reference list

Cite This for Me 2019, ‘What are in-text citations?’ Cite This Form Me, viewed 11 February 2019, http://www.citethisforme.com/us/bibliography-basics/what-is-a-citation/in-text


Perrin, R 2018, Pocket guide to APA style’ 6th edn, Cengage Learning, Boston, MA