

Running attribution

Use running attribution (RA) to make clear that source material is being used and to avoid “accidental plagiarism”!

When using information from source material in academic writing, *narrative citation* is a good way to indicate when source material is being introduced. *Not sure what narrative citation is? See our Writing Guides listed at the bottom of the next page.*

When the writing continues to draw on the same source for several sentences, it’s important to make clear that’s what is happening. To do this, **use running attribution (or running acknowledgement): continue to refer to the source within the sentences, by name or by pronoun, so it is clear the ideas and information are still coming from the same source.**

Examples: **Rogers and Milstein (2001) pointed out** that even in adverse situations, the result favored the nonindigenous species. Further, **they found**, native species were less likely to take root if...

Hu notes a persistent attempt to... (1101). **He later argues** that Victorian... (1103).

See examples below–

- Remember:**
- Use author(s) name(s) **logically within the sentences.**
 - *If you take out the part in parentheses, the sentences should make sense.*
 - use **the appropriate tense verb** for the documentation system you’re using.
 - *See our Writing Guides “Parenthetical & narrative citations.”*

APA

If printing new money is out of the question, then there must be another way for the government to receive the funding required to follow through with their stimulus plan. **According to Gottheil (2008)**, there are two routes that the United States government can take to receive the money. The first is to increase taxes, but in the case of the stimulus plan then, increasing taxes is not an option of fiscal policy. The government must choose the second option: selling treasury securities **(Gottheil, 2008)**. **As Gottheil explained**, treasury securities such as bonds, bills, and notes are essentially government IOU's. **Gottheil commented** that “[e]very \$100 IOU that the Treasury sells...

MLA (Note: in MLA, narrative citations use author(s)' full name(s) (and sometimes an identifier) in the first reference to the source only; any subsequent narrative citations of that source use the last name only.)

Before the transition customs were set into place that every young lady and young man new. During the transition the purpose of spending time with another person was the largest aspect that changed. **Ellen Rothman, in “Sex and Self Control: Middle Class Courtship in America,”** explains that the purpose of courtship was very clear in early American history. Individuals practicing courtship had an immediate intent to find a wife or husband (410). **Rothman further explains** a difference between courtship and courting; the first being the intent to marry while the second is “a more casual or communal nature” between young individuals which was not immediately leading to marriage (410). This introduces **Rothman’s interpretation** as the transition from courtship to dating...

Running attribution in summaries

In a summary, all the ideas and examples come from the original source, and most if not all of it will be paraphrased. However, it is still important to periodically remind the reader that the information is all from the source.

Author Jaime O’Neill’s article “No Allusions in the Classroom” emphasizes the communication problem between teachers and students due to the students' lack of basic knowledge. **The author supports this assertion** by using a combination of personal experience, evidence obtained from recent polls, other professors' opinions, and the results of an experiment he conducted in his own classroom. **The experiment O’Neill conducted** was an ungraded eighty-six-question “general knowledge” test issued to students on the first day of classes. On this test, **O’Neill found**, “most students answered...

More help with citations

For more help with...	...see this Writing Guide:
... parenthetical and narrative citations →	“APA doc: Parenthetical & narrative citations” “MLA doc: Parenthetical & narrative citations”
... how to use narrative citations →	“Documentation: Narrative citations are your friends!”
... how to format citations with more than one author →	“APA Documentation: Author’s names” “MLA Documentation: Author’s names”