

Documenting sources: Citing “indirect” or “secondary” sources

Most often in your writing, you will make direct reference to your sources—those you read yourself, that are on your References or Works Cited page. **Sometimes, though, you may find that you want or need to refer directly to someone YOUR source cited. This is referred to in the documentation systems as an “indirect” or “secondary” source.**

To cite an indirect source, use parenthetical citation OR the combination of narrative citation (attribution) and parenthetical citation to make clear

- which source you are referring to AND
- which source is YOUR source.

Example:

- **your source** is authored by Don Kingsley and Maria Gomez-Herrera, published in 2019
- **they refer to and cite** a source authored by Kenneth R. Jensen, published in 2003
- **you want to refer to Jensen.**

On your References (APA) or Works Cited (MLA) page: include **only** the source authored by Kingsley and Gomez-Herrera (“your source”)

In text:

APA: use an “as cited in” reference:

Parenthetical citation:

Two different explanations are found when the initiating group is removed from the analysis (**Jensen, 2003, as cited in Kingsley & Herrera, 2019**).

Narrative citation (using attribution):

According to Jensen (2003), two different explanations are found when the initiating group is removed from the analysis (**Kingsley & Herrera, 2019**).

MLA: use a “quoted (qtd.) in” reference:

Parenthetical citation:

Two different explanations are found when the initiating group is removed from the analysis (**Jensen qtd. in Kingsley and Herrera 74**).

Narrative citation (attribution):

According to Jensen, two different explanations are found when the initiating group is removed from the analysis (**qtd. in Kingsley and Herrera 74**).