

APA Documentation  
BCWC (Bridgewater College Writing Center) Handout

Documentation means:

- 1) Showing in your text that information comes from a source; in APA format, cite author's last name, year, and page number in parentheses, like this:  
(Krakauer, 1996, p. 15).
- 2) Including all sources in a list at the end of the paper (a bibliography); in APA format, the list is called References, and the author's name, date of publication, title of the work, city of publication, and publishing company are shown for a book entry."  
Krakauer, J. (1996). *Into the wild*. New York: Random House/Anchor.

What should you document?

- 1) Factual information;
- 2) Quotation (which means you are using the author's exact words);
- 3) Paraphrase (which means you have put a passage into your own words);
- 4) Sometimes, summary (which means you have put a passage into your own words in shortened form).

Examples:

The bus that Chris McCandless lived in on the Stampede Trail was an old Fairbanks City bus, an International Harvester built in the 1940s (Krakauer, 1996). **[In general, APA format does not use page number citations for paraphrases.]**

When the Datsun was flooded, Chris McCandless "was exhilarated" because he "saw the flash flood as an opportunity to shed unnecessary baggage" (Krakauer, 1996, p. 29).

[Note that no comma is used before the quoted words when you weave them into your sentence.]

Note: When you use the author's name to introduce the information or quotation, insert the date after his or her name and put only the page number in parentheses.

Examples:

Krakauer (1996) reports that Chris McCandless did not see or speak to any human being for thirty-six days when he canoed from Arizona into Mexico. **[See the note above about paraphrased information.]**

According to Krakauer (1996), "The trip was to be an odyssey in the fullest sense of the word, an epic journey that would change everything" (p. 22).

Krakauer (1996) comments on the silence of the area where Chris McCandless camped in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: "Only the rattle of the wind interrupts the spectral quiet" (p. 49).

[Note that when a whole statement is used to introduce a quotation (Krakauer comments on the silence of the area where Chris McCandless camped in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park), a colon, not a comma, is used before the quotation, which is also a whole statement.

A long quotation should be indented from the left margin. A long quotation, in APA format, is a quotation of forty words or more. When a quotation is indented, punctuate the end of the sentence at the end of the quotation before adding the parenthetical citation. No period is placed after the parenthetical citation.

Example of a paraphrase:

Chris McCandless completed his college education out of a sense of duty to his parents. Once he accomplished that, he felt free to escape from his parents' and classmates' confining life. They valued a life of ideas, money, and possessions, but he felt that their lifestyle separated him from the reality of living in the world (Krakauer, 1996, p. 22).

Original:

"He had spent the previous four years, as he saw it, preparing to fulfill an absurd and onerous duty: to graduate from college. At long last he was unencumbered, emancipated from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess, a world in which he felt grievously cut off from the raw throb of existence" (Krakauer, 1996, p. 22).

**INADEQUATE PARAPHRASE (PLAGIARISM):**

Chris McCandless spent four years fulfilling an absurd duty, to graduate from college. At last he was freed from his parents' stifling world of abstraction, security, and excess, where he was cut off from raw existence.

BC Plagiarism Policy: Follow the link from the Writing Center page.

Other Sources: Entries in References

Collins, S. (2008). *The Hunger Games*. New York: Scholastic.

***This is a book.***

Beier, P., Choate, D., & Barrett, R. H. (1995). Movement patterns of mountain lions during different behaviors. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 76, 4, 1056-1070. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1382599>

***This is an article from a periodical found in a subscription database, identified with a stable URL.***

Morrison, S. A., & Boyce, W. M. (2008). Conserving connectivity: Some lessons from mountain lions in southern California. *Conservation Biology*, 23, 2, 275-285. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2008.01079.x

***This is an article from a periodical found in a subscription database, identified with a DOI.***

Paulson, S. (2006, Nov. 27). Buddha on the brain. *Salon*. Retrieved from <http://www.salon.com>.

***This is an article from a Web-based periodical.***

Ryan, K. (2000). Revolutionary suicide in Toni Morrison's fiction. *African American Review*, 34, 389-412.

***This is an article from a print periodical.***

United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2009, May). *Drinking water contaminants*. Retrieved from <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm>

***This is a Webpage with an organization as the author.***