

Citing Secondary or Indirect Sources: APA, MLA & Chicago Styles

Strong academic writing is based on using original sources. Sometimes it is challenging to find the original source, such as when the original work is out of print, available only in another language, or unavailable. In this case, it is important to cite the secondary or indirect source (the source that was read).

<p>The example sentence below is found in <i>Earning and Caring in Canadian Families</i>, written by Rod Beaujot in 2000:</p>		
<p>In analyzing “what holds marriage together” Jan Trost proposes that most of the standard bonds have declined.</p>		
<p>APA style</p>	<p>Quotation Example 1: Common bonds, "what holds a marriage together," are diminishing (Trost, 1986, as quoted in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p> <p>Quotation Example 2: Trost (1986) researched “what holds marriage together” and found that several typical bonds had weakened (as quoted in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p>	<p>Paraphrase Example 1: The customs and connections keeping marriages together are no longer as effective (Trost, 1986, as cited in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p> <p>Paraphrase Example 2: Trost (1986) proposes that the customs and connections keeping marriages together are no longer as effective (as cited in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p>
<p>MLA style</p>	<p>Quotation Example 1: On marriage, Jan Trost argues that “most of the standard bonds have declined” (qtd. in Beaujot 110).</p>	<p>Paraphrase Example 1: In <i>Earning and Caring in Canadian Families</i>, Rod Beaujot supports Jan Trost's argument that the customs and connections keeping marriages together are no longer as effective (110).</p>
<p>Chicago Footnote-Bibliography Style</p>	<p>Footnote/Endnote This style does not require that the writer mention the name of either source in the text itself; that explanation is saved for the footnote/endnote.</p> <p>1. Jan Trost, “What Holds Marriage Together?” in <i>Continuity and Change in Marriage and Family</i>, ed. J. Veevers (Toronto, ON: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1986), quoted in Rod Beaujot, <i>Earning and Caring in Canadian Families</i> (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2000), 110.</p>	
<p>Chicago Author-Date Style</p>	<p>Quotation Example 1: Common bonds, "what holds a marriage together," are diminishing (Trost, 1986, quoted in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p>	<p>Paraphrase Example 1: Trost (1986) proposes that the customs and connections keeping marriages together are no longer as effective (quoted in Beaujot, 2000, p. 110).</p>

This tip sheet provides basic information on citing indirect sources in APA, MLA, and Chicago styles. For more details, consult the specific manual or style guide, see a reference librarian or writing tutor, or ask the instructor how they would like this information cited.

APA Style

The in-text citation for a quotation requires not only the author's name and date of publication of both sources, but also the page number of the quotation, as located in the source that was read. For paraphrases, APA encourages (but does not require) writers to include the page number from the source that was read, along with the author and date of both sources. Some instructors, however, prefer that students *not* provide page numbers for paraphrases; it is always a good idea to ask which option they prefer. Include the source that was read (e.g., Beaujot) in the reference list.

MLA Style

The in-text parenthetical citation for a quotation begins with the phrase "qtd. in" before the author's name of the source that was read and the page number. The phrase "qtd. in" is not needed if the paraphrased sentence(s) clarifies that the source is secondary. Include the source that was read (e.g., Beaujot) in the Works Cited page. A writer can also include the original source reference in a note at the bottom of the page on which the in-text reference appears.

Chicago Styles

Chicago includes two style formats: Note-Bibliography and Author-Date.

Footnote/Endnote Style

Unlike other styles, the writer must provide the full citation of the original alongside the full citation of the source that was read. Use "quoted in" to introduce the source that was read. Include both the source that was read and the original in the bibliography list.

Author-Date Style

Whether paraphrasing or quoting, the in-text citation is the same in Author-Date format. Include the original author and date in the sentence, and then cite the source that was read for that quotation or paraphrase in parentheses (quoted in Beaujot 2000). Include the source that was read (e.g., Beaujot) in the reference list.

APA	<i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style</i> (7th ed.). (2020). Section 8.6. American Psychological Association.
MLA	<i>MLA handbook</i> (9th ed.). (2021). Section 6.77. The Modern Language Association of America.
CMOS	<i>Chicago manual of style</i> . (17th ed.). (2017). Section 14.260 and 15.56. The University of Chicago Press.