

What if I want to cite one author within another author's text?

This is called “secondary sourcing”, and should be represented as both a citation and a reference. However, you should be aware that secondary sourcing is discouraged in academic writing and should only be used in cases where the original text (the primary source) is not available. Your strongest academic writing will be based upon primary sources, *not* another author's interpretation of the text.



The Original Source: Parker's Article

“In most situations handwashing with soap and water is quite adequate and the technique fairly simple. **Hands should be washed using soap and running water for 10-15 seconds (Larson, 1995).** The same amount of time is recommended if aqueous antiseptic solutions are used” (Parker, 1999, p.719).



In this example, you have Parker's article in which Parker paraphrases Larson. You want to cite Larson, but Larson's text is unavailable. In this case, you could represent Parker's paraphrase of Larson as a quote in your paper (quote below), or you could paraphrase Parker's paraphrase of Larson (paraphrase below). Can you see why secondary sources are less reliable?

Building the Citation

Quote

Larson (as cited in Parker, 1999, p. 719) advised that “Hands should be washed using soap and running water for 10-15 seconds.”

Note: the period is inside the closing quotation marks when the sentence ends with the quote (not the page number in parenthesis/brackets). See: “How do I quote?”

Paraphrase

Larson (as cited in Parker, 1999, p. 719) advised that soap and running water should be used for ten to fifteen seconds during handwashing.

Explanation

The author *outside* the parenthesis (Larson) is the author you want to quote/paraphrase in your paper.

The author *inside* the parenthesis (Parker) is the source you have found in your library or online research.

Reference

Most importantly, the source you have found (Parker) is represented in your reference list.

Parker, L. (1999). Importance of handwashing in the prevention of cross-infection. *British Journal of Nursing*, 11(8), 716-720.

Larson's text is *not* represented in the reference list because you do not have a copy of Larson's work. Representing Larson's text in the reference list is academic dishonesty and is punishable as plagiarism. See: "How do I avoid academic dishonesty?"

