

apa 7th edition personal communication citation

APA 7th Edition Personal Communication Citation: A Complete Guide

So, you're knee-deep in research, crafting that brilliant academic paper, and suddenly you need to cite a conversation, an email, or a text message. Panic sets in – how do you cite something so... personal? Fear not, aspiring scholar! This comprehensive guide will walk you through the intricacies of APA 7th edition personal communication citations, equipping you with the knowledge to navigate this seemingly tricky territory with confidence. We'll cover everything from the basics to nuanced situations, ensuring you avoid those pesky citation errors.

What are Personal Communications in APA 7th Edition?

Personal communications encompass any informal exchange of information that isn't readily retrievable by others. Think emails, text messages, phone calls, letters, conversations (in-person or virtual), and even personal interviews conducted for your research. The key characteristic? These sources aren't publicly accessible. This is important because it affects how you cite them. Unlike journal articles or books, you don't include them in your reference list.

Why Aren't Personal Communications in the Reference List?

Because personal communications lack a persistent, stable location for retrieval. Someone else couldn't easily find that email or listen to that phone conversation. Including them in your reference list would be misleading to your reader.

How to Cite Personal Communications in APA 7th Edition

The magic of personal communication citation lies in the in-text citation only. You don't need a corresponding entry in your reference list. Here's how it works:

In-text Citation Structure:

Within your text, you'll need to provide a concise in-text citation containing the following information:

Communicator's Initials and Last Name: Include the initials and last name of the person you communicated with.

Date of Communication: Use the date of the communication in parentheses, formatted as (Year, Month Day).

Example:

"As one expert noted, the current economic climate presents unique challenges" (A. Smith, personal communication, 2024, March 15).

Handling Different Types of Personal Communications:

While the basic structure remains the same, let's look at how to adapt it for different scenarios:

Email Citations:

The process remains the same. Simply replace "personal communication" with a description appropriate to your context, if needed, but always include the communicator's name and date. For example:

"This perspective aligns with recent findings" (J. Doe, email, 2024, April 2).

Text Message Citations:

Similar to emails, use the same format, tailoring the description to reflect the medium:

"According to a recent text message," (R. Brown, text message, 2024, April 5).

Phone Call Citations:

Here, too, the fundamental method holds true. Maintain consistency in format:

"This point was further emphasized in a recent phone conversation" (K. Davis, phone conversation, 2024, April 10).

Interviews (Informal):

If you conducted an informal interview, this functions similarly. You may provide a slightly more detailed description to avoid ambiguity.

"Participants shared mixed opinions on the issue" (B. Garcia, personal interview, 2024, April 18). Note that a formal interview with a planned methodology might have different citation requirements, particularly if published elsewhere.

Best Practices for APA 7th Edition Personal Communication Citations:

Accuracy is Key: Double-check the date and communicator's name to ensure accuracy. Inconsistent information can raise questions about your academic integrity.

Context is Important: Provide sufficient context within your writing so the reader understands the relevance of the personal communication.

Keep it Concise: Avoid overly long or detailed descriptions in your in-text citation. Brevity is key.

Avoid Over-Reliance: While personal communications can add valuable context, avoid relying solely on them. Prioritize verifiable and publicly accessible sources for the core arguments of your paper.

Conclusion:

Mastering APA 7th edition personal communication citations is essential for maintaining academic integrity and clarity in your research. By following the guidelines outlined in this post, you can confidently incorporate personal communications into your writing while adhering to APA style. Remember, focus on accuracy, context, and brevity for a polished and professional presentation of your work.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. Can I use personal communication citations in my dissertation? Yes, but use them sparingly and always provide sufficient context. Prioritize peer-reviewed publications.
1. What if I can't remember the exact date of the communication? It's best to strive for accuracy. If the exact date is unattainable, use the closest approximation you can confidently provide.
1. Is it okay to cite a personal communication from a professor? Yes, provided you have their permission and the communication remains informal and not part of a formal course or instruction.

1. Should I italicize “personal communication”? No, "personal communication" is not italicized.

1. Can I cite a social media message as a personal communication? Yes, using the appropriate naming convention for the platform as part of your description in the in-text citation. For example, (J. Bloggs, Facebook Message, 2024, May 1). Always ensure you have permission, as privacy settings can apply.

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