How to Cite Part of a Work (by Chelsea Lee)

This post will explain how to cite just part of a work—such as a footnote, table, figure, chapter in an authored book, paragraph, section, or page—in an APA Style paper. It’s actually quite simple: Just provide a citation for the whole work in the reference list, and in the text, include the regular author–date citation plus information about the specific part to which you want to bring the reader’s attention.

The idea is to provide a path to the source. The in-text citation refers the reader to the reference list entry, which in turn provides enough information for the reader to find the source itself. The extra information in the in-text citation further specifies which part of the reference the reader should attend to. If you need to cite a part within a part (such as a row within a table), just add that information into the text citation (e.g., Smith, 2013, Table 1, column 4).

Note that if you want to cite a chapter in an edited book, a separate format applies. Chapters in edited books, unlike those in authored books, receive their own reference list entries because different authors write different chapters in the book, and it is important to properly attribute the citation in the paper. Chapters in authored books, on the other hand, can be cited in the text, but the reference list entry should be to the whole book because that is what the reader would look up in a library catalog or database.

Example In-Text Citations to Parts of Sources

Here are a few examples showing how to cite part of a work in the text:

- (Woo & Leon, 2013, Figure 3)
- Caswell, Morgan, and Duka (2013, Table 1, row 3)
- (Park, Van Bavel, Vasey, & Thayer, 2013, footnote 3)
- Dweck (2006, Chapter 3)
- (Ebrahim, Steen, & Paradise, 2012, Appendix)
- (Breska, Ben-Shakhar, & Gronau, 2012, Method section)
- Cook et al. (2012, General Discussion section, para. 2)
- Cook et al. (2012, General Discussion section, paras. 3-4)
- (Ferguson, 2012, pp. 64–67)

In each case, the reference list entry would reflect the larger work containing the piece, formatted according to the document type.
For example, the reference entry for the citation to Figure 3 in Woo and Leon’s (2013) article, shown in the illustration, would follow the format for a journal article.


And the reference entry to Chapter 3 in the book by Dweck (2006) would follow the format for an authored book, and so on.


**Formatting Requirements**

In looking at the examples above, you may have noticed that the names of some parts were capitalized or abbreviated. Capitalization and formatting rules are described in section 4.17 of the *Publication Manual*, and a condensed version of that advice is provided in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitalized</th>
<th>Lowercase</th>
<th>Abbreviated in parentheses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>row</td>
<td>page (p.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure</td>
<td>column</td>
<td>pages (pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>footnote</td>
<td>paragraph (para.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>paragraphs (paras.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official section names or headings (e.g., Method section)</td>
<td>Descriptive section names (e.g., introduction, when <em>introduction</em> is not an actual heading in the document)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep in mind these rules will apply to any part of a source you can think of.