APA Format—6th Edition

OVERVIEW—The American Psychological Association (APA) style is widely accepted in the social sciences and other fields, such as education, business, and nursing. The APA citation format requires parenthetical citations within the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. Citations in the text provide brief information, usually the name of the author and the date of publication, to lead the reader to the source of information in the reference list at the end of the paper.

NOTE: Although the examples in this guide are shown in single space, APA style requires double spacing throughout (e.g. text, references, etc.)

APA RULES FOR THE REFERENCES PAGE – The following sections show some of the more commonly used APA citation rules.

NOTE: All citations must be in the Hanging Indent Format with the first line flush to the left margin and all other lines indented.

JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS IN PRINT FORMAT

General Form


NOTE: The journal title and the volume number are in italics. Issue numbers are not required if the journal is continuously paged. If paged individually, the issue number is required and is in regular type in parentheses adjacent to the volume number.

One Author


Two to Seven Authors [List all authors]


Eight or More Authors [List the first six authors, ... and the last author]

Magazine Article


Newspaper Article with No Author and Discontinuous Pages


BOOKS, CHAPTERS IN BOOKS, REPORTS, ETC.

General Form

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

One Author


Corporate Author with an Edition and Published by the Corporate Author


Anonymous Author


Chapter in a Book


ERIC Document

ONLINE JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS

General Format - Databases


Article Retrieved from an Online Database

NOTE: Use the article’s DOI (Digital Object Identifier), the unique code given by the publisher to a specific article.


NOTE: Use the journal’s home page URL (or web address) if there is no DOI. This may require a web search to locate the journal’s home page. There is no period at the end of web address. Break a long URL before the punctuation.


Article from an Online Magazine


OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

General Form

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of work. Retrieved from web address

Online Report from a Nongovernmental Organization


Online Report with No Author Identified and No Date

Web Sites in Parenthetical Citations: To cite an entire Web site (but not a specific document within the site), it is sufficient to give the URL of the site in the text. No entry in the reference list is needed. Example:

Kidpsych is an excellent website for young children (http://www.kidpsych.org).

REFERENCE CITATIONS IN TEXT– APA utilizes a system of brief referencing in the text of a paper, whether one is paraphrasing or providing a direct quotation from another author’s work. Citations in the text usually consist of the name of the author(s) and the year of publication. The page number is added when utilizing a direct quotation.

Indirect Quotation with Parenthetical Citation
Libraries historically highly value intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality (LaRue, 2007).

Indirect Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative
LaRue (2007) identified intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality as two key values held historically by libraries.

Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation
Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (Gould & Brown, 1991, p. 14).

Direct Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative
Gould and Brown (1991) explained that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (p. 14).

CITING SECONDARY SOURCES -- When citing in the text a work discussed in a secondary source, give both the primary and the secondary sources. In the example below, the study by Seidenberg and McClelland was mentioned in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller.

Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993) provided a glimpse into the world

In the references page, you would cite the secondary source you read not the original study.