Citing Sources: APA Style

The APA style of citation was developed by the American Psychological Association and is commonly used in the disciplines of education, business, and the social and behavioral sciences.

Examples of In-text Citation and Reference List are based on the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. For additional examples and details, consult the full APA manual kept at the Research Help Desk (Ref BF 76.7.P83 2010). Some disciplines may require other styles, so check with your instructor for a style recommendation. For updated citation information and tutorials consult http://www.apastyle.org/learn.

General Guidelines:
APA uses in-text citations to identify the source of your information, whether quoted or paraphrased. The in-text citation is brief information, referring the reader to your reference list. It includes the author(s) last name (unless it appears in the narrative) and the date of publication. For quotations, include the page number, or for electronic (online) articles without page numbers, use a brief section title and paragraph number. Here are a few examples:

Examples: In-Text Citations (see sections 6.11 – 6.21 of the APA manual)

Quotations (see 6.05 and 6.15):
With pages: “Our culture is full of simpleminded myths of blame” (Sher, 1994, p. 45).
Online article, no pages: “Empirical studies have found mixed results” (Golan, Kuchler, & Krissof, 2007, “Mandatory Labeling Has Targeted,” para. 4).

One author (see 6.11): Pagels (1995) discussed...
Two authors: Juedes and Curry (1999) concluded...
or: (Pagels, 1995)
or: (Juedes & Curry, 1999)

Three to five authors (see Table 6.1, p. 177):
First citation: Smiler, Kay, and Harris (2008) examined the history...
Subsequent references to the same source (first author followed by et al.):
Smiler et al. (2008) found...

Six or more authors: The first author followed by et al. for all citations. If there is more than one article with the same lead author, see the manual for directions (6.12).

Works with no identified author (see 6.15):
on free care (“Study Finds,” 2007)...
The book College Bound Seniors (2008)...

Multiple works cited together (see 6.16): List alphabetically by first author.
Several studies (Balda, 1995; Kamil, 1988; Pepperberg & Funk, 1990)...

Personal Communications (e.g. email, personal interviews): These are included for in-text citations, but are not included in the reference list because they are not recoverable (see 6.20).
...as described by R. Gerstner (personal communication, November 12, 2001).

Secondary Source (source that quotes or cites another source – use sparingly): The secondary source, Claiborne, is the one included in the reference list (see 6.17).
Strangelove and Manic’s 1990 study (Claiborne, 1999)...
The reference list is an alphabetical list of all resources cited in your paper. There are several general guidelines to use, regardless of the type of resource (see section 6.22 – 6.32 of the APA manual):

- **Double space between all lines.** This guide shows entries single spaced to save paper.
- Use a hanging indent, with all lines after the first indented.
- List entries alphabetically (by authors’ last names).
- List all authors of a work, up to and including seven authors.
- Use authors’ first and middle initial(s), not whole names.
- Put the date of publication after the author’s name(s). **If no date,** use: n.d.
- **If author is unknown,** alphabetize by first significant title word (see 6.25, p. 183).
- Capitalize only the first word of a book or article title, the subtitle, and all proper names.
- For a periodical title (i.e., journal or magazine title), capitalize as is on the source.
- Italicize periodical titles and volume number, and book titles.
- For audiovisual media, add note in brackets. Examples: [Audio podcast], [DVD], [Motion picture].
- If you have a source that APA does not include, APA suggests you choose the example that is most like your source and follow that format.

**Examples: Reference List**

**Book/E-book/General Format** (see section 7.02 of the APA manual)

- For online books or chapters, include retrieval information instead of place of publication and publisher.
  - use a DOI (digital object identifier) if available
  - if no DOI, use a brief url

**Book – One Author (7.02)**

**Book – 2-7 Authors (7.02)**

**Book Chapter or Encyclopedia Article (7.02: 25)**

**Book Chapter or Encyclopedia Article Online (7.02: 24)**

**Edited Book (7.02: 23)**

**Online Reference Source – No Author or Editor (7.02: 30)** (list alphabetically by article title)
Group Author (7.03: 31)

Article/General Format (7.01)
Author1, A. A., & Author2, B. B. (Date). Article title. *Journal Title, vol #*(issue #), start page-end page. doi: xx.xxxxxx

- Include the year for all articles; include month/day for magazines and news publications.
- Include the issue number only if each issue begins with page 1.
- Include the DOI (digital object identifier), if available, for all formats.
  - Look for the DOI on the first page of the article, or in the database from which you linked.
  - [http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/](http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/) is helpful for finding article DOI numbers.
  - If no DOI: For paper omit. For online see below.
- For electronically retrieved (online) articles only:
  - If no DOI is available then substitute the URL of the journal’s homepage in this way: Retrieved from http://www.xxxxx
  - Include retrieval date only if source may change over time (e.g. wikis, draft paper).

Journal Article – One Author (7.01)

Journal Article – Online (7.01: 1)

Journal Article – 2-7 Authors (7.01: 2)

Journal Article – Online, no DOI (7.01: 3)

Magazine Article (7.01: 7)

Newspaper Article – Online (7.01: 10)

Government Document – Group Author – Online (7.03: 31)
Image (7.07)

Film or Video (e.g. DVD) (7.07: 49)

Podcast (7.07: 50)

Internet Document (from personal or institutional website, informally published) (7.09)

Twitter Post (7.11: 74)
Trump, D. [realDonaldTrump]. (2017, January 22). Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views. [Tweet]. Retrieved from https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/823174199036542980

Listserv source (7.11: 75)

Blog (Weblog) (7.11: 76)

Streaming Video (YouTube, TED Talk) (7.11: 77)

Web page (see Purdue OWL web page cited below)

Web page – No Author (when there is no author for a web page, the title moves to the first position of the reference entry) (see APA Style web page cited above)