APA Citations

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What is APA?

• APA stands for American Psychological Association. The APA Manual of Style dictates how papers written in the social sciences (such as Education) need to formatted and how citations need to be referenced in a publication.

• It is important to remember that APA has guidelines for how to format papers, which includes directions for heading sizes, layout, and labeling sections of your paper.

• I highly recommend brushing up on APA by visiting Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL). Penfield Library has plenty of resources as well.
When to Cite a Source

• Everyone knows that plagiarism is illegal and there are many negative consequences for using another person’s idea as your own.

• As you write your literature review, or any other papers, just make sure to include an in-text citation and a full citation (in your reference list) for any works you reference, paraphrase, or quote. This is an easy way to guarantee to not get avoid plagiarism. Even the smallest idea needs to be cited.

• You should be citing sources used in contexts other than papers as well. This include presentations, lesson plans, speeches, and more.
More on Citing Your Sources

• The person reading your work might be interested in knowing more about a resource you have included in your paper and will need to be able to track it down. Your thorough citations allow them to do that.

• When you are conducting your own research, consider looking at the reference lists of the articles you use. These might be articles you want to use in your Critical Review of Literature.

• Try locating an article using the Penfield Library Citation Finder: http://atoz.ebsco.com/Customization/Tab/15454?tabId=14906
APA Tools

• Make sure to check out the APA tools on this library guide. Noodletools provides an easy way to get help formatting your citations. KnightCite also performs a similar function.

• If you absolutely cannot figure out what to do, use Penfield Library’s Ask a Librarian chat service. I guarantee that a librarian will be geeked to help you!
A Database Secret

• Many databases will give you the option to copy & paste a journal article’s citation. In the Ebsco databases, such as ERIC and Education Source, there is a Cite tool. Just click on the article’s title to view the bibliographic record. Click on “Cite” and select the APA option.

• **Be warned**: While this is an awesome database feature, ALWAYS double check the formatting of the citation. They are rarely 100% accurate, and usually capitalize titles incorrectly.
Format of Citations

For journal articles:
Last1, F. M., & Last2, F. M. (Date). Article title.
   *Journal Title*, vol # (issue #), start page-end page.
   doi:xx.xxxxxx

Example:

Notes:
• Not all articles will have a doi number. Exclude the doi if you cannot find one.
• Only the first word in the title should be capitalized; exceptions include proper nouns and the first word after a colon (:) in the title.
Format of Citations

For a dissertation or thesis:


Example:

Format of Citations

For websites:
Last, F. M. (Year, Month Date Published). *Title of website*. Retrieved from URL.

Example:

Note:
- If there is not an author listed, list the organization or corporation where the author information is located. Example: American Heart Association. (2010). *Heart matters*. 
Conclusion

• Plagiarism is easy to avoid when you properly cite information in your writing.

• APA is used for creating citations and for formatting papers. Use Purdue’s OWL to help you. It is up-to-date with the 6th edition of APA.

• If you have an APA question, use the library’s Ask a Librarian chat service, email me at brandon.west@oswego.edu, or post your question to the Module 2 discussion board.