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APA Citation Style

APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper. APA style requires both in-text citations and a reference list. For every in-text citation, there should be a full citation in the Reference List and vice versa.

The examples of APA styles and formats listed on this page include many of the most common types of sources used in academic research. For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and the APA Style Guide to Electronic References.

Also, for automatic generation of citations in appropriate citation style, use a bibliographic citation management program such as Refworks or EndNote. Some software products, such as Microsoft Word 2007, have citation software built in.

Reference citations in text

In APA style, in-text citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs so that it is clear what information is being quoted or paraphrased and whose information is being cited.

Examples:

Works by a single author

The last name of the author and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point.

```
from theory on bounded rationality (Simon, 1945)
```

If the name of the author or the date appear as part of the narrative, cite only missing information in parentheses.

```
Simon (1945) posited that
```

Works by multiple authors

When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. In parenthetical material, join the names with an ampersand (&).

```
as has been shown (Leiter & Maslach, 1998)
```

In the narrative text, join the names with the word "and."

```
as Leiter and Maslach (1998) demonstrated
```

When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs.

        Kahneman, Knetsch, and Thaler (1991) found

In all subsequent citations per paragraph, include only the surname of the first author followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others") and the year of publication.

        Kahneman, et al. (1991) found

Works by associations, corporations, government agencies, etc.

The names of groups that serve as authors (corporate authors) are usually written out each time they appear in a text reference.

        (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2007)

When appropriate, the names of some corporate authors are spelled out in the first reference and abbreviated in all subsequent citations. The general rule for abbreviating in this manner is to supply enough information in the text citation for a reader to locate its source in the Reference List without difficulty.

        (NIMH, 2007)

Works with no author

When a work has no author, use the first two or three words of the work's title (omitting any initial articles) as your text reference, capitalizing each word. Place the title in quotation marks if it refers to an article or chapter of a book. Italicize the title if it refers to a book, periodical, brochure, or report.

        on climate change ("Climate and Weather," 1997)

        Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices (1981)

Anonymous authors should be listed as such, followed by a comma and the date.

        on climate change (Anonymous, 2008)

Specific parts of a source

To cite a specific part of a source (always necessary for quotations), include the page, chapter, et cetera (with appropriate abbreviations) in the in-text citation.

        (Stigter & Das, 1981, p. 96)

        De Waal (1996) overstated the case when he asserted that "we seem to be
        reaching ... from the hands of philosophers" (p. 218).

If page numbers are not included in electronic sources (such as Web-based journals), provide the paragraph number preceded by the paragraph symbol or the heading and following paragraph.

        (Mönnich & Spiering, 2008, ¶ 9)

Reference List

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a Reference List or bibliography. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source.

- <u>Order</u>: Entries should be arranged in alphabetical order by authors' last names. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title within the same list.
- <u>Authors</u>: Write out the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work. Use an ampersand (&) instead of the word "and" when listing multiple authors of a single work. e.g. Smith, J. D., & Jones, M.
- <u>Titles</u>: Capitalize only the first word of a title or subtitle, and any proper names that are part of a title.
- <u>Pagination</u>: Use the abbreviation p. or pp. to designate page numbers of articles from periodicals that do not use volume numbers, especially newspapers. These abbreviations are also used to designate pages in encyclopedia articles and chapters from edited books.
- <u>Indentation</u> *: The first line of the entry is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines are indented (5 to 7 spaces) to form a "hanging indent".
- <u>Underlining vs. Italics</u> *: It is appropriate to use italics instead of underlining for titles of books and journals.

Two additional pieces of information should be included for works accessed online.

1   Internet Address**: A stable Internet addresses should be included and should direct the reader as close as possible to the actually work. If the work has a digital object identifier (DOI), use this. If there is no DOI or similar handle, use a stable URL. If the work's URL is not stable, as is often the case with online newspapers and some subscription-based databases, use the home page of the site you retrieved the work from.
2   Date: If the work is a finalized version published and dated, as in the case of a journal article, the date within the main body of the citation is enough. However, if the work is not dated and/or is subject to change, as in the case of an online encyclopedia article, include the date that you retrieved the information.

* The APA has special formatting standards for the use of indentation and italics in manuscripts or papers that will be typeset or submitted for official publication. For more detailed information on these publication standards, refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, or consult with your instructors or editors to determine their style preferences.

** See the APA Style Guide to Electronic References for information on how to format URLs that take up more than one line.

Examples:

<u>Articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers</u>
References to periodical articles must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, article title, journal title, volume number, issue number, and page numbers.

Journal article, one author, accessed online

> Ku, G. (2008). Learning to de-escalate: The effects of regret in escalation of
>   commitment. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 105
>   (2), 221-232. doi:10.1016/j.obhdp.2007.08.002

Journal article, two authors, accessed online

> Sanchez, D., & King-Toler, E. (2007). Addressing disparities consultation
>   and outreach strategies for university settings. Consulting
>   Psychology Journal: Practice and Research, 59 (4), 286-295.
>   doi:10.1037/1065 -9293.59.4.286

Journal article, three to seven authors, accessed online (articles with eight authors or more have special formatting—please refer to the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) for assistance)

```
Van Vugt, M., Hogan, R., & Kaiser, R. B. (2008). Leadership, followership,
     and evolution: Some lessons from the past. American Psychologist,
     63 (3), 182-196. doi:10.1037/0003-066X.63.3.182
```

Article from an Internet-only journal

```
Hirtle, P. B. (2008, July-August). Copyright renewal, copyright
     restoration, and the difficulty of determining copyright status.
     D-Lib Magazine, 14 (7/8). doi:10.1045/july2008-hirtle
```

Journal article from a subscription database (no DOI)

```
Colvin, G. (2008, July 21). Information worth billions. Fortune, 158 (2),
      73-79. Retrieved from http://search.ebscohost.com/
```

Magazine article, in print

```
Kluger, J. (2008, January 28). Why we love. Time, 171 (4), 54-60.
```

Newspaper article, no author, in print

```
As prices surge, Thailand pitches OPEC-style rice cartel. (2008, May 5).
     The Wall Street Journal, p. A9.
```

Newspaper article, multiple authors, discontinuous pages, in print

```
Delaney, K. J., Karnitschnig, M., & Guth, R. A. (2008, May 5). Microsoft
     ends pursuit of Yahoo, reassesses its online options. The Wall Street
     Journal, pp. A1, A12.
```

<u>Books</u>
References to an entire book must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

No author or editor, in print

```
Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary (11th ed.). (2003). Springfield, MA:
     Merriam-Webster.
```

One author, in print

> Kidder, T. (1981). *The soul of a new machine*. Boston: Little, Brown &
> Company.

Two authors, in print

> Frank, R. H., & Bernanke, B. (2007). Principles of macro-economics (3rd ed.).
> Boston: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

Corporate author, author as publisher, accessed online

> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2000). Tasmanian year book 2000(no. 1301.6).
> Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author. Retrieved from
> http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf
> /0/CA25687100069892CA256889000CA9FC/$File/13016_2000.pdf

Edited book

> Gibbs, J. T., & Huang, L. N. (Eds.). (2001). Children of color:
> Psychological interventions with culturally diverse youth. San
> Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Dissertations
References for dissertations should include the following elements: author, date of publication, title, and institution (if you accessed the manuscript copy from the university collections). If there is a UMI number or a database accession number, include it at the end of the citation.

Dissertation, accessed online

> Young, R. F. (2007). Crossing boundaries in urban ecology: Pathways to
> sustainable cities. Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. (AT
> 3276815)

Essays or chapters in edited books
References to an essay or chapter in an edited book must include the following elements: essay or chapter authors, date of publication, essay or chapter title, book editor(s), book title, essay or chapter page numbers, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

One author

> Labajo, J. (2003). Body and voice: The construction of gender in flamenco. In
> T. Magrini (Ed.), Music and gender: perspectives from the Mediterranean
> (pp. 67-86). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Two editors

> Hammond, K. R., & Adelman, L. (1986). Science, values, and human judgment. In
> H. R. Arkes & K. R. Hammond (Eds.), *Judgement and decision making: An*
> interdisciplinary reader (pp. 127-143). Cambridge: Cambridge University
> Press.

Encyclopedias or dictionaries and entries in an encyclopedia
References for encyclopedias must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher. For sources accessed online, include the retrieval date, because the entry may be edited over time.

Encyclopedia set or dictionary

> Sadie, S., & Tyrrell, J. (Eds.). (2002). The new Grove dictionary of music and
> musicians (2nd ed., Vols. 1-29). New York: Grove.

Article from an online encyclopedia

> Containerization. (2008). In Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved May 6, 2008,
> from http://search.eb.com

Encyclopedia article

> Kinni, T. B. (2004). Disney, Walt (1901-1966): Founder of the Walt Disney Company.
> In Encyclopedia of Leadership (Vol. 1, pp. 345-349). Thousand Oaks, CA:
> Sage Publications.

Research reports and papers
References to a report must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and name of publisher. If the issuing organization assigned a number (e.g., report number, contract number, or monograph number) to the report, give that number in parentheses immediately after the title. If it was accessed online, include the URL.

Government report, accessed online

> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2005). Medicaid drug price
> comparisons: Average manufacturer price to published prices (OIG
> publication No. OEI-05-05-00240). Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved
> from http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-05-05-00240.pdf

Government reports, GPO publisher, accessed online

> Congressional Budget Office.(2008). Effects of gasoline prices on driving
> behavior and vehicle markets: A CBO study (CBO Publication No. 2883).
> Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from
> http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8893/01-14-GasolinePrices.pdf

Technical and/or research reports, accessed online

```
Deming, D., & Dynarski, S. (2008). The lengthening of childhood (NBER Working
        Paper 14124). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.
        Retrieved from the National Bureau of Economic Research:
        http://www.nber.org/papers/w14124
```

Document available on university program or department site

```
Victor, N. M. (2008). Gazprom: Gas giant under strain. Retrieved from Stanford
        University, Program on Energy and Sustainable Development Web site:
        http://pesd.stanford.edu/publications /gazprom_gas_giant_under_strain/
```

<u>Audio-visual media</u>
References to audio-visual media must include the following elements: name and function of the primary contributors (e.g., producer, director), date, title, the medium in brackets, location or place of production, and name of the distributor. If the medium is indicated as part of the retrieval ID, brackets are not needed.

Videocassette/DVD

```
Achbar, M. (Director/Producer), Abbott, J. (Director), Bakan, J. (Writer), &
        Simpson, B. (Producer) (2004). The corporation [DVD]. Canada: Big Picture
        Media Corporation.
```

Audio recording

```
Nhat Hanh, T. (Speaker). (1998). Mindful living: a collection of teachings on
        love, mindfulness, and meditation [Cassette recording]. Boulder, CO:
        Sounds True Audio.
```

Motion picture

```
Gilbert, B. (Producer), & Higgins, C. (Screenwriter/Director). (1980). Nine to
        five [Motion picture]. United States: Twentieth Century Fox.
```

Television broadcast

```
Anderson, R., & Morgan, C. (Producers). (2008, June 20). 60 Minutes [Television
        broadcast]. Washington, DC: CBS News.
```

Television show from a series

```
Whedon, J. (Director/Writer). (1999, December 14). Hush [Television series
        episode]. In Whedon, J., Berman, G., Gallin, S., Kuzui, F., & Kuzui,K.
        (Executive Producers),Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Burbank, CA: Warner Bros.
```

Music recording

```
Jackson, M. (1982). Beat it. On Thriller [CD]. New York: Sony Music.
```

Undated Web site content, blogs, and data

For content that does not easily fit into categories such as journals, papers, books, and reports, keep in mind the goal of a citation is to give the reader a clear path to the source material. For electronic and online materials, include stable URL or database name. Include the author, title, and date published when available. For undated materials, include the date the resource was accessed.

Blog entry

```
Arrington, M. (2008, August 5). The viral video guy gets $1 million in
    funding. Message posted to http://www.techcrunch.com
```

Professional Web site

```
National Renewable Energy Laboratory. (2008). Biofuels. Retrieved May 6, 2008,
    from http://www.nrel.gov/learning/re_biofuels.html
```

Data set from a database

```
Bloomberg L.P. (2008). Return on capital for Hewlett Packard 12/31/90 to
    09/30/08. Retrieved December 3, 2008, from Bloomberg database.

Central Statistics Office of the Republic of Botswana. (2008). Gross domestic
    product per capita 06/01/1994 to 06/01/2008 [statistics]. Available
    from CEIC Data database.
```

Entire Web site

When citing an entire Web site (and not a specific document on that site), no Reference List entry is required if the address for the site is cited in the text of your paper.

```
Witchcraft In Europe and America is a site that presents the full text of many
essential works in the literature of witchcraft and demonology
(http://www.witchcraft.psmedia.com/).
```

For more detailed information on APA citation style, such as information on articles in press, journal special issues and supplements, translations, et cetera, see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and the APA Style Guide to Electronic References.

Other citation guides and useful Web sites:

American Psychological Association's Web site http://www.apastyle.org/

Purdue University Online Writing Lab's APA Formatting and Style Guide http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Diana Hacker's Research and Documentation Online http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/

Landmark's Son of Citation Machine   http://citationmachine.net/