

Using APA Style

What is APA Style?

Every science employs methodological conventions. APA Style is a convention for psychological writing. Scientific writing should not contain personal speculations or subjective opinions. Instead, it should mainly consist of the published research findings of others. Research is published in a variety of different formats and contexts and it is therefore important that conventional standards of citation apply.

APA style is governed by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. This style has gained wide acceptance in the social sciences, and versions similar to it are used in the biological sciences, business, and the earth sciences. The information presented here is based on the fifth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, published in July 2001. APA style highlights research and the accurate reporting of research results.

In addition to using the information here, you can consult the APA Web site <http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx> for more information, updates, or corrections.

There are two parts to this document:

Part 1: Incorporating Reference Citations into Your Paper

Part 2: The Reference List at the end of Your Paper

Part 1: Incorporating Reference Citations into Your Paper

APA style uses these conventions for in-text citations:

- Cites last names only.
- Cites the year, within parentheses, immediately after the name of the author. A specific day precedes the year in textual citations, but follows in bibliography entries.
- Cites page numbers with a direct quotation, seldom with a paraphrase.
- Uses “p.” or “pp.” before page numbers.

Author and Year

An in-text citation in APA style includes the last name of the author and the year of publication, as shown:

Devlin (1999) has advanced the idea of combining the social sciences and mathematics to chart human behavior.

If you quote the exact words of a source, provide a page number and use “p.” or “pp.” The page number can be placed either after the year (e.g., 1999, p. B4) or at the end of the quotation, as shown:

Devlin (1999) has advanced the idea of “soft mathematics,” which is the practice of “applying mathematics to study people’s behavior” (p. B4).

Two or More Authors

When a work has two authors, use and in the text but use & in the citation, as shown:

Werner and Throckmorton (1999) offered statistics on the toxic levels of water samples from six rivers.

but

It has been reported (Werner & Throckmorton, 1999) that toxic levels exceeded the maximum allowed each year since 1983.

For three to five authors, name them all in the first entry (e.g., Torgerson, Andrews, Smith, Lawrence, & Dunlap, 2001), but thereafter use “et al.” (e.g., Torgerson et al., 2001). For six or more authors, employ “et al.” in the first and in all subsequent instances (e.g., Fredericks et al., 2001).

Two or More Works by the Same Author

For citing more than one work by an author, use lowercase letters (a, b, c) to identify works published in the same year by the same author, for example, “(Thompson, 2000a)” and “(Thompson, 2000b).” Then use “2000a” and “2000b” in your Reference list.

Corporate Author

Corporate authors may be abbreviated after a first, full reference:

One source has questioned the results of the use of aspirin for Arthritis treatment in children (American Medical Association, 1991).

Thereafter, refer to the corporate author by initials: (AMA, 1991).

Indirect Sources

Use a double reference to cite somebody who has been quoted in a book or article. That is, use the original author in the text and cite your source for the information in the parenthetical citation, as follows:

In other research, Massie and Rosenthal (1997) studied home movies of children diagnosed with autism, but determining criteria was difficult due to the differences in quality and dating of the available videotapes (cited in Osterling & Dawson, 1998, p. 248).

Internet Sources

An online source is cited in the same way as a print source. Provide the name of the author(s) followed by the year of publication: (Schino, 2001). If no author is given, begin with the name of the document: (*Animal Intelligence*, 1999).

If an article on the Internet shows numbered pages or numbered paragraphs, include that information in the citation:

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (1997) emphasizes restraint first, saying, “Riding unrestrained or improperly restrained in a motor vehicle always has been the greatest hazard for children” (par. 13).

If there is no author, use a short form of the title of the article or the title of the Web site:

Important new guidelines have been established and must be followed for any Project receiving federal funding (*Web Accessibility Initiative*, 2001).

Personal communications, which cannot be retrieved, should be cited in the text only and not included in the References list. The citation in the text should take this form, which is used for citing

any personal communication (including letters and personal interviews):

One technical writing instructor (March 8, 2000) has bemoaned the inability of hardware developers to maintain pace with the ingenuity of software developers. In his e-mail message he said, "Students nationwide suffer with antiquated equipment, even though it's only a few years old" (ClemmerJ@APSU.EDU).

Part 2: The Reference List at the end of Your Paper

Use the title "References." Alphabetize the entries and double space throughout. Every reference used in your text should appear in the alphabetized list of references at the end of the paper. Type the first line of each entry flush left, and indent succeeding lines one half inch or five spaces. The newest version of the manual uses italics rather than underlining throughout. In addition to using the information here, you can consult the APA Web site (<http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx>) for more information, updates, or corrections.

Books

Author's Name

List the author (surname first with initials for given names), year of publication within parentheses, title of the book in italics and with only the first word of the title and any subtitle capitalized, place of publication, and publisher. In the publisher's name, omit the words *Publishing, Company, or Inc.*, but otherwise give a full name: Florida State University Press; HarperCollins.

McGraw, P. C. (2000). *Life strategies: Doing what works, doing what matters*. New York: Hyperion.

Two or More Authors

List books with two or more authors as follows:

Parker, S. T., & McKinney, M. L. (1999). *Origins of intelligence: The evolution of cognitive development in monkeys, apes, and humans*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

When a book has six or more authors, list the first six, followed by et al. to indicate the remaining authors:

Smith, R. V., Florez, J. D., Chin, H. J., Johansen, E. I., Mathis, T. E., Jameson, M. P., et al. (2001). *Studying animal intelligence: Seventy-five years of field research*. Johnson, TN: Johnson State University Press.

Two or More Books by the Same Author

List two or more books by the same author chronologically, not alphabetically; for example, Fitzgerald's 1999 publication would precede his 2000 publication. References with the same author in the same year are alphabetized and marked with lowercase letters (a, b, c) immediately after the date.

Cobb, R. A. (1999a). Circulating systems.

Cobb, R. A. (1999b). Delay valves. . .

Corporate Author

American Medical Association. (1998). *Essential guide to menopause*. New York: Pocket.

Edited Book

An edited book should be listed as follows:

Mitchell, R. W., Thompson, N. S., & Miles, H. L. (Eds.). (1997). *Anthropomorphism, anecdotes, and animals*. Albany: University of NY Press.

Chapter or Part of Book

List author, date, chapter or section title, editor (with name in normal order) preceded by “In” and followed by “(Ed.)” or “(Eds.),” the name of the book in italics, page numbers to the specific section of the book cited (in parentheses), place of publication, and publisher.

Hill, R. (1999). Repatriation must heal old wounds. In R. L. Brooks (Ed.), *When sorry isn't enough* (pp. 283–287). New York: New York University Press.

Periodicals

Journals

List author, year, title of the article without quotation marks and with the first word (and any proper nouns) capitalized, name of the journal italicized, volume number italicized, issue number, inclusive page numbers not preceded by “p.” or “pp.”

Hart, B. (1997). Hofmannsthal's ideal women: A psychoanalytic perspective. *The Opera Quarterly*, 13(4), 93–121.

If you read the online version of the journal, simply add the description [Electronic version] after the title of the article:

Schino, G. (2001). Grooming, competition, and social rank among female primates: A meta-analysis [Electronic version]. *Animal Behavior*, 62, 265–271.

Magazines

List author, date of publication (year, month without abbreviation, and the specific day for magazines published weekly and fortnightly), title of the article without quotation marks and with the first word capitalized, name of the magazine italicized, the volume number if it is readily available, and inclusive page numbers preceded by “p.” or “pp.” only if you do not provide the volume number. If a magazine prints the article on discontinuous pages, include all page numbers.

Cameron, W. B. (2001, September 17). Downsizing at the dinner table. *Time*, 158, 105.

Abstracts

Cite as for a magazine or journal, but with the word “abstract” enclosed in brackets.

Rosen, G. (2000). Public school alternatives: The voucher controversy [Abstract]. *Current*, 423, 3–8.

Newspapers

The examples below illustrate a signed newspaper article, an unsigned article, and a letter to the editor.

Bollag, B. (2001, June 15). Developing countries turn to distance education. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, p. B29.

Controlled study suggests dangers of new drug. (2001, October 1). *The Fordham Morning Monitor*, pp. 1, 17, 19.

Gordon, M. (2001, September 25). Reflection and revenge need hard look [Letter to the editor]. *The Oakwood Register*, p. 4.

Reviews

Jenkyns, R. (2000, August 28). Leprous spawn [Review of the book *Bosie: A biography of Lord Alfred Douglas*]. *The New Republic*, 223, 38-40.

Internet Sources

Include the following information:

1. Author/editor last name, comma, initials, and a period.
2. Within parentheses, date of publication (year, month date), followed by a period.
3. Title of the article, not within quotation marks, with only the first word of the title and subtitle and proper nouns capitalized.
4. Name of the journal or complete Web site, italicized.
5. Volume number, italicized; issue number in parentheses if given (not italicized).
6. Page numbers, if given.
7. The word "Retrieved," followed by the date of access, followed by the source (e.g., World Wide Web or Telnet) and a colon.
8. The URL. There is no period after a URL at the end of a citation so that readers will not think the period is part of the URL. If you need to divide the URL, do so only after a slash or before a period.

Dow, J. (2000). External and internal approaches to emotion: Commentary on Nesse on mood. *Psychology*. Retrieved September 23, 2000, from <http://www.cogsci.soton.ac.uk/cgi/psyc/Newpsy?3.01>

E-mail and Messages

Since personal E-mail cannot be retrieved by the reader of the paper, it is not included in the reference list at the end of the paper. It is cited in the body of the paper as follows:

B. J. Lawson, personal communication, September 26, 2001.

The same wording is used for personal letters, memos, personal interviews, and telephone conversations.

Messages that can be retrieved by the reader—such as those posted to a newsgroup, discussion list, online forum, and so on—should be included in the reference list as follows:

Williams, W. E. (2001, September 20). Killing the messenger [Msg 2384]. Message posted to <http://forums.nytimes.com/webin/WebX?1300.efe8124>

Other Sources

CD-ROM

Firestone, D. (2000, August 10). The south comes of age on religion ad politics [CD-ROM]. *New York Times*, p. A-17. Article from UMI-ProQuest file: *New York Times Online* Item 3602-108.

Computer Program

Gold Rush 1.0. (1999). [Computer program]. Columbia, MD: WisdomBuilder.

Interview

Corcoran, R. L. (2000, May 22). Interpreting dreams: Subconscious reflections and realities [Interview]. Macon, GA.

Videotape

Ford, B., & Ford, S. (Producers). (1998). *Couples dance instructional videos: Robert Royston & Lawreen Baldovi* [Videotape]. Antioch, CA: Images in Motion.

Secondary Sources

This is a situation where you want to cite a source which you have not read yourself but which you have read about in someone else's text. To reference such a source you would cite the original source's reference followed by "Cited in" and then the reference for the secondary source in which you read about that original source. The formatting of the two references depends on which type of source each of them is and follows the rules of that type of source outlined above. The only difference is that for the authors of the secondary source the Initial comes before the Surname not after.

For example a Journal article (original) mentioned in a textbook (secondary).

Cacioppo, J.T., Petty, R.E., Kao, C.F., and Rodriguez, R. (1986). Central and peripheral routes to persuasion: An individual difference perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51, 1032-1043. Cited in M. Hogg & G. Vaughan, (2005). *Introduction To Social Psychology* (5th ed). Sydney: Prentice Hall.