

APA Style for Citing References (based on APA Publication Manual, 6th edition)

This is a brief summary. Much more detailed information, in the form of easy-to-read slideshows on many aspects of good writing in proper APA Style, can be found at <http://www.uml.edu/FAHSS/Psychology/Current-Students/Writing-Resources.aspx>

APA style requires two elements for citing outside sources: brief parenthetical citations in the text of a paper, and a detailed References list at the end. Together, these elements allow your reader to know and to access the sources you used. For the system to function, all sources cited in the text must appear in the References list, and all sources listed in the References list must be cited in the text.

For more information, go to library.uml.edu (if needed, access via "Off Campus Users Login"), select <Create a Bibliography>, scroll down to the "Websites" section and select <American Psychological Association formats>, then <Create an APA reference list>.

Citations in Text

APA style calls for at least two pieces of information to be included whenever citing the source of information presented in the text of a paper:

- The author's surname or authors' surnames (no first names, initials, titles, or degrees),
- followed by a comma and the work's date of publication

This information must match *exactly* with the corresponding entry in the references list (same surnames, same order, same year).

- A third possible piece of information, the page number (or for unpagged websites, the paragraph number), must be used for any direct quotation.

For articles with multiple authors, use all authors' surnames, in correct order, separated by commas, with the word 'and' before the last surname if your citation is part of a sentence (with only the year in parentheses), or with an ampersand (&) before the last surname when the citation is fully in parentheses.

The use of 'et al.' (literally, "and others") is permitted only when:

- There are 7 or more authors,
- or whenever the citation, with all authors' names, has already been used once in the paper.

If the author is an organization, use the organization's full name, in normal word order, no abbreviations. If there is no author, use the first few words of the article or webpage title, in quotation marks.

The citation may appear as part of a text sentence:

In 2003, Smith and Jones published a study in which students did not show any true increase in scores.

Or both may be in parentheses (and note that the citation is part of the sentence and therefore comes before the end-of-sentence period):

Another study has shown that students did show a modest increase in scores (Black, White, & Brown, 2002).

Note that when the information is entered as part of the sentence you spell out the word "and," but when entered in parentheses, you use the ampersand symbol instead, "&."

Least desirable is to simply stick the citation in at the end of a paragraph. Since you are presenting information from sources, the goal is to identify the source being discussed early in your presentation, not at the very end.

Once you have cited a source, you do not need to keep citing it while you continue to discuss it. The only times you need to cite it again are when you have mentioned other sources in between, or if you are using an exact quotation.

The page number (or paragraph number for web pages) required for quotations is always in the parentheses (and again, before the end-of-sentence period):

Another study has shown that students did show an increase in scores but “only for those who completed both semesters” (Black, White, & Brown, 2002, p. 33).

You may only cite sources that you have located and read yourself. If you use a “second-hand” source, (a source cited by the authors of the book or article you are reading but which you yourself have not actually read), then either simply cite the source from which you got the information, or you can mention the other source by name (year is not necessary) but also add “as cited in....”

Another study was conducted by Smith and Jones (as cited in Black, White, & Brown, 2002) in which they found that students did not show any true increase in scores.

>Note that such second-hand sources are *not* included in the References list at the end.

Formatting the References List

Heading Type the word “References” at the top of the list, centered, and three lines below the last sentence of the paper to which the References list belongs—do not create a new page.

Spacing All entries should be single-spaced (unless double-spacing of paper has been requested), with double-spacing between entries.

Indentation Use "hanging indents": the first line is not indented, but subsequent lines for the same reference are indented 5 spaces (but this is may not be required for electronic submissions).

Authors' Names Always listed surname first, followed by first initial, second initial (if given). If no authors are identified, use name of organization, in normal word order. If no author or organization name is exists or is known, use the title of the article. All entries in the References list must be arranged alphabetically, by first author's last name (or by first letter of first word of organization's or title's name). Use an ampersand (&) before last author's last name.

Year	Authors' names are always followed by year in parentheses, followed by a period. Month-day (e.g., April 21) is also used for magazine and newspaper articles, but not for scientific periodicals. For web sites, look for a Copyright year, or a Last updated Year; if none can be found, use year of retrieval
Title of reference	Next comes title of book or article or webpage. Capitalize only the first letter of (a) first word of titles of books and articles, (b) the first word after a colon or question mark or exclamation point, and (c) proper names.
Electronic sources	If the reference is only available in an electronic source, such as an online journal, then include the DOI number (Digital Object Identifier) if available, or, if no DOI is available, the Retrieved date and complete URL. If the reference is an electronic equivalent of what was originally published in print and retrieved from an electronic database, such as PsycInfo, no additional information is required (though some still believe the database and date of retrieval should be mentioned)..
Title of source	Titles of books and journals are in italics (no underlining, no quotation marks). For books that include the edition number, add "Nth ed." in parentheses after title but before period, not in italics, followed by period.
Volume #s	For journals, volume number, in italics (but do not use the word "Volume") must be included after the title of a journal. For journals that are consecutively numbered for all issues of a volume, no issue number is used, but for journals where each new issue begins with page 1, the issue number is included in parentheses (but without italics)
Publisher	The publisher of a journal is not included as part of the citation for a journal article, but is included for a book, as the last item after the title, in the format of "Place: Publisher." For 'City,' it is sufficient to use the city name for well-known cities (e.g., New York), but to add abbreviations for states or countries for less well-known cities
Punctuation	Use a comma to separate surnames from initials, a newspaper title from pages numbers, a journal title from volume number, a volume number from page numbers, an issue number (when needed) from page numbers, (Ed.) from book title, city of publication from state. Use periods after initials, abbreviations, (such as et al.), year of publication, title of book or journal article, and at end of reference. Use ampersand (&) before surname of last author. Use a colon after the city (and state) of publication of a book.
URL	The URL must be for the specific page from which the information was located; do not simply give the home page address.

Examples of Journal Article References

Basic form, single author

Roy, A. (1982). Suicide in chronic schizophrenia. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 141, 171-177.

Journal paginated by issue, 3-6 authors

Baldwin, C. M., Bevan, C., & Beshalske, A. (2000). At-risk minority populations in a church-based clinic: Communicating basic needs. *Journal of Multicultural Nursing & Health*, 6(2), 26-28.

Seven or more authors

Yawn, B. P., Algatt-Bergstrom, P. J., Yawn, R. A., Wollan, P., Greco, M., Gleason, M., et al. (2000). An in-school CD-ROM asthma education program. *Journal of School Health, 70*, 153-159.

Article retrieved as electronic version of print publication from an electronic database

Knowles, E. S. (1999). Distance matters more than you think! An artifact clouds interpretation of Latane, Liu, Nowak, Bonevento, and Zheng's results. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 25*, 1045-1048. Retrieved August 18, 2009 from PsycINFO database.

Article retrieved from electronic-only journal, with DOI available

Brownlie, D. (2001) Toward effective poster presentations: An annotated bibliography. *European Journal of Marketing, 41*, 1245-1283. doi:10.1108/03090560710821161

Article retrieved from electronic-only journal, with no DOI available

Nelson, G., Westhues, A., & MacLeod, J. (2003). A meta-analysis of longitudinal research on preschool prevention programs for children. *Prevention & Treatment 6*, Article 31. Retrieved December 2, 2004, from <http://journals.apa.org/prevention/volume6/pre0060031a.html>

(Abstracts of articles may also be cited but must be clearly identified as abstracts if the full text was not accessed.)

Examples of Book References

Basic form, single author, well-known city

Sulloway, F. J. (1979). *Freud: Biologist of the mind*. New York: Basic Books.

Book beyond first edition, multiple authors, less well-known city

Strunk, W., Jr., White, E. B., & Angell, R. (1999). *The elements of style* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Example of Internet Reference

University of Wisconsin-Madison (2006). Create an APA reference list. Retrieved January 14, 2008, from http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPAResources_Elec.html

(Note that it is not sufficient to simply provide the home page URL; the complete URL for the actual page used must be spelled out in full.)