# Documenting Research Papers: APA Style

To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, create a reference list of sources of information cited and a series of references that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source. The American Psychological Association (APA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. This handout explains and provides examples of the most common types of citations. For more detailed explanations or for more unusual types of citations, please see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (6th Edition), call number REF BF 76.7.P83 2010, which is available at the Reference Desk, or ask a librarian.

## Reference List Basics

The tables below show the information you need and the format to use for each type of resource on the left. A specific example for that type of resource is on the right. You will also need to know the following as you create your reference list:

- Indent one-half inch (5 spaces) before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation.
- Arrange the completed reference list in one alphabetical list by first author’s last name.
- Give only the first city of publication; use official two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviations for states.
- Only the first word of a title or subtitle and proper nouns are capitalized in book titles and magazine, journal, and newspaper article titles and subtitles. All major words are capitalized in journal titles.
- Each reference must end with a period unless the reference ends with a DOI or a URL.
- Each reference cited in your text must appear in the reference list, and each resource on the reference list must be cited in the text.
- Use PDF version of electronic resources for page numbers.
- Double space all lines within and between entries. Examples provided are single spaced to save space.
- Italicize titles of books and journals.
- Use n.d. (no date) when there is no publication date.
- **Caution:** Citations provided by databases are not always correct. Verify for accuracy.

## Formats and Examples for Print Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Resource</th>
<th>Basic Format of Citation</th>
<th>Sample Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter in an Edited Book</td>
<td>Last name of article chapter author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). Chapter title. In Book editor initial(s) and last name (Ed.). <em>Title of book</em> (pp. page numbers of chapter). City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
<td>Johnson, C. &amp; Bulik, C. (2007). Genetics play a significant role in eating disorders. In V. Wagner (Ed.), <em>Eating disorders</em> (pp. 70-76). Detroit, MI: Thomson Gale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Formats and Examples for Electronic Resources

| Internet Source With Corporate Author | Name of institution. (Date created). *Title of Site.* Retrieved from URL | National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (2009-2010). *NAACP: 100 years of history.* Retrieved from www.naaccp.org/Page/naacp-history |
| Internet Source With No Author | *Title of site.* (Date created). Retrieved from URL | *Depression (major depression).* (1998-2011). Retrieved from www.mayoclinic.com/health/depression/DS00175 |
| **YouTube Broadcast** | Last name of producer, Initial(s) of producer. (Producer). (Date of broadcast). *Title of program* [Type of broadcast]. Retrieved from URL | *Stanford’s Sapolsky on Depression in the U.S.* (2009, November 10). [video]. Retrieved from www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOAplgTxfc |
| **Interviews** | (Initial and last name of person interviewed, personal communication, Date of message in month day, year) [Note: Cite personal interview in text only; no entry on the reference list.] | (M. Sargent, personal communication, February 15, 2010) |

### Documenting or Citing Sources in the Text of the Paper

When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with an in-text reference. Place the author's last name and the year of publication in parentheses after the material used; when there is no author, use a shortened form of the title and the year. If the author’s name appears in the text, it may be omitted from the in-text reference. When a work has two authors, cite both names every time the reference occurs in text with an ampersand in between; but, when a work has three or more authors, cite only the last name of the first author followed by et al. Include the full name of the author(s) and the complete citation to the work in the reference list at the end of the paper. Be sure to include a page number in the in-text reference for direct quotations. If no page number is available, use paragraph numbers. If neither page nor paragraph numbers are available, use the nearest heading from the document plus the number of the paragraph below the heading. *Never use the page numbers of web pages you print out: different computers print web pages with different pagination.*

**The text would state:** “Although some cultures and societies condone or even encourage abuse more than others, we must always guard against the cultural arrogance that says that one way is best for all children” (Berger, 2000, p. 34).

**Or the text could state:** According to Berger, “Although some cultures and societies condone or even encourage abuse more than others, we must always guard against the cultural arrogance that says that one way is best for all children” (2000, p. 34).


**With two authors, the parenthetical reference in the text would look like this:** (Johnson & Bulik, 2007, p.62).

**With no author, use a shortened version of the title, so the parenthetical reference in the text would look like this:** (Statistical Abstract, 2007, p.137). Note that all major words are capitalized in titles used in parenthetical references.
Academic Search Premier

CQ Researcher

ProQuest Newstand

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

ProQuest Education Journals

Lexis-Nexis Academic

ProQuest Psychology Journals

ProQuest Central

PsycARTICLES

ScienceDirect

SocINDEX with Full Text

SIRS Issues Researcher
Sample Reference List

References

18(17), 385-408. Retrieved from CQ Researcher Online database.


