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

- **Caution:** Citations provided by databases are not always correct. Verify for accuracy.
- 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.
- Each reference must end with a period unless the reference ends with a DOI or a URL.
- Only the first word of a title or subtitle and proper nouns are capitalized in journal titles.
- Select PDF version of electronic resources to obtain page numbers.
- Double space all lines within and between entries. Examples provided are single spaced to save space.
- Indent one-half inch (5 spaces) before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation.
- Use n.d. (no date) when there is no publication date.
- Italicize titles of books and journals.
- 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.

The boxes below show both specific information you will need for citing and an example for each type of source.

### Formats and Examples for Print Resources

**Book: One Author**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date)</th>
<th>Title of book.</th>
<th>City and State of publication:</th>
<th>Publisher.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Book: Multiple Authors** (must list up to seven authors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of 1st author, Initial(s) of author &amp; Last name, Initials of 2nd author. (Date). Title of book. City and State of publication: Publisher.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Book: Editor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of editor, Initial(s) of editor. (Ed.). (Date). Title of book. City and State of publication: Publisher.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Book: Chapter or Article with Author**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of author chapter author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). Chapter title. In Book editor Initial(s) and Last name (Ed.), Title of book (edition, Vol., pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Government Publication: Chapter or Article with Organization Author**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of chapter or article. (Date). In Name of Government Agency. Title of publication (edition) (pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Journal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). Title of article. <em>Journal Title, Volume number</em> (Issue number), Page(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Magazine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date in year, month day format). Title of article. <em>Magazine title</em>, Page(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
**Newspaper**
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date in year, month day format). Title of article. *Newspaper Title*, p.(pp.) Page(s).


---

**Formats and Examples for Online Resources**

**Article from Library Database (Journal)**
Last name of author(s) of author(s), Initial(s). (Date). Title of article. *Journal Title, Volume number (Issue number), Page(s). Digital Object Identifier (DOI)*

If available. Retrieved from Name of database.


**eBook**
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). *Title of Book. [ebook type and version if available e.g. Kindle DX version]. Retrieved from URL or name of Database.*


**Web Site: No Author**
Title of site. (Date created). Retrieved from URL


**Web Site: Organization Author**
Name of organization. (Date created). *Title of Site. Retrieved from URL*


**Web Site: With Author/Editor**
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author/editor. (Date created). *Title of site. Digital object identifier (DOI) if available. Retrieved from URL*

Dwyer, L. (2012). *We know how to end bullying in schools-so why don’t we do it?* Retrieved from http://www.safechild.org/new/2012/03/06/777/

---

**Formats and Examples for Other Resources**

**Image**
Last name of creator, Initial(s) of creator. (Date). *Title of image. Retrieved from URL*


**Interview**
(Initial and last name of person interviewed, personal communication, Date of message in month day, year)

[Note: Parenthetically cite personal interview in text only; do not cite on the reference list.]

(M. Sargent, personal communication, February 15, 2010).

**Motion Picture/Video/DVD**
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Function of author). (Date). *Title of movie. [Type of production]. Place of production: Studio.*


**YouTube Broadcast**
*Title of program.* (Date of broadcast). [Type of broadcast]. Retrieved from URL

Additional Examples

Research Databases:

**Academic Search Premier**

**Academic VIDEO Online**

**CQ Researcher**

**Lexis-Nexis Academic**

**Opposing Viewpoints in Context**

**ProQuest Newstand**

**ProQuest Psychology Journals**

**PsycARTICLES**

**ScienceDirect**

**SIRS Issues Researcher**

**SocINDEX with Full Text**

Web Sites:


Documenting Sources in the Text of the Paper with In-text References

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 both the last name and initials 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 multiple authors, the parenthetical reference in the text could look like this: (Drerup, Croysdale & Hoffman, p. 126).

With no author, use a shortened version of the title, so the parenthetical reference in the text would look like this: (*Calcium*, 2010).

Note that all major words are capitalized in titles used in parenthetical references. Use quotes around the title of an article and italicize the title of a book or website.

Sample Reference List


