How to Document Sources in APA Style

This guide provides frequently cited sources using the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style. For those not included here, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. Refer to Chapters 6 and 7 Crediting Sources and Reference Examples in APA Style for examples. The instructor for your class is the final authority on how to format your References List.

PREPARING THE REFERENCE LIST

The reference list provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source you cite in the body of your paper. It should appear at the end of your paper and begin on a new page separate from the text of the paper under the label References (with no quotation marks, underlining, etc.), centered at the top of the page.

Double-space all reference entries. Indent all lines after the first line of each entry. Alphabetize your reference list by the authors’ last names. If you have more than one work by the same author, arrange them by publication date, oldest to newest. If no author is given for a particular source, alphabetize by the “first significant word” of the title of the work.

BASIC RULES

Example (Book Citation)


- **Author**: Invert the author’s name. Begin with last name, followed by a comma, then by first and middle initials (if any). **Examples**: Wurm, J. (no middle name), Clark, L.A. When listing multiple authors, separate the names of authors with commas and use “&” instead of “and” before the last author. **Example**: Calfee, R.C., & Valencia, R. R.* See Chapter 6.25 for additional criteria.
- **Date**: Enclose the publication date in parentheses. Close with a period. **Example**: (2005).
- **Publisher’s Location (for books)**: Always list the city. Include the U.S. Post Office abbreviation for the state if the city is not well known for publishing. Omit state abbreviations for the following U.S. cities: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco. Place a colon after the location. **Example**: St. Paul, MN:
- **Publisher (for books)**: Use the full name of the publisher, but omit Co., Inc., Publishers, etc. Retain Books and/or Press. Close with a period. **Example**: Redleaf Press.
BOOKS

General Format
Author, A. A. (Year of publication). Book title. Publisher’s Location: Publisher.

One Author

One Editor or Compiler as only author

Two Authors

Three to Six Authors
• If a book has three, four, five, or six authors, list all authors’ names.


More Than Six Authors
• If a book has more than six authors, list the first six authors and then use “et al.” (Latin for “and others”). Do not italicize. Put a period after al.

Edited Book


- For a book with more than one editor, use (Eds.).

No author or Editor


- If a book has no author or editor, place the publication year after the title.

Book with an Author and an Editor


Edition Other Than the First


- Place the edition information in parenthesis after the title of the book. For numbered editions, use the abbreviation for the ordinal number that applies (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.), then add “ed.” For a revised edition, use the abbreviations “Rev. ed.”

Chapter from a Book / Items in an Anthology


- Include chapter author, date of publication, chapter title, book editor(s), book title, chapter page numbers, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

Encyclopedia Article

Group or Corporate Author (author is same as publisher)


Government Agency as Author


PERIODICALS (Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers)

General Format

Author, A. A. (Date of publication). Title of article. Title of Periodical, volume number, pages.

- **Date of publication**: Enclose date of publication in parentheses. Include only year of publication for journals. *Example*: (2006). Give the year followed by the exact date on the publication (month OR month and date) for magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. *Examples*: (2006, October), (2006, October 28).

- **Title of article**: Capitalize only the first word of the title and of the subtitle (if any) and proper nouns. Do not italicize or place quotation marks around it. *Example*: Shifting roles and synthetic women in Star Trek: The next generation.

- **Title of periodical**: Italicize the title of periodical. Capitalize the major words in the title. *Example*: Journal of American Culture.

- **Volume number**: Italicize the volume number. Do not use “Vol.” before the number. Give the volume number of journals, magazines, and newsletters.

- **Pages**:
  - For journal and magazine articles, just include the page numbers with no abbreviation. *Example*: 28-31.
  - Give the page numbers for the whole article rather than just the first page. For articles on consecutive pages, provide the range of pages at the end of the citation. *Example*: 204-232. When an article appears on discontinuous pages, give all page numbers. *Example* (of a newspaper article): (pp. A1, A5-A7, A17).

Magazine Articles


- If no author, begin with the title of the article. Put the date of publication after the title of the article. See example below.


Journal Articles


- If, and only if, each issue of a journal begins on page 1, give the issue number in
parentheses immediately after the volume number. See example below.


Newspaper Articles


• If an article is not on consecutive pages, give all page numbers, and separate the numbers with a comma. Example: pp. B1, B3, B5-B7.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES

General Formats

Article from a Database

Author, A. A. (Date of publication). Title of article. Title of periodical, volume number, pages. DOI or Retrieved from URL of original source.

Online Document

Author, A. A. (Date of publication). Title of article. Retrieved from http://web address

Because the Internet is constantly changing, it is important that you give the uniform resource locator (URL) or web address of the Internet source and the date you accessed it. Provide as much identifying information as possible. “In general, include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a reference to a fixed-media source, and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the sources you cited” (p.187). (APA Style Guide to Electronic References, 2009) For some Web sites, you may only have a title, and an address or a DOI* to cite.

• Author(s) last name and initials, if available. If not available, start with the title.
• Date of publication, in parentheses, if available. Express the date as a year, a year and a month, or a year, month and date depending on information available from the Web site. Examples: (2006), (2006, December), or (2006, December 15).
• **Title of work**, italicized. If the source is a periodical article, include the title of the article (not italicized), and then the title of the periodical, italicized, followed by a volume number, also italicized, if available. Capitalize the first letter of each important word for the title of the periodical. *Example*: The explorers. *U.S. News & World Report.*

• **Pagination information**, if available. More often than not, this will NOT be available for Web sites.

• **Retrieval information** includes the unique URL of a Web site or the DOI* of the article. Avoid dividing the URL at the end of a line. If absolutely necessary, divide it after a slash (/) or before a period. (see pages 190-192 in the manual since there are several exceptions) *Example*: Retrieved from http://library.tccd.edu

*Provide DOI (Digital Object Identifier), if one has been assigned. Publishers who follow best practices publish the DOI prominently on the first page of an article. *(APA Publication Manual (2009) P. 191)* When DOI is used, no further retrieval information is needed to identify or locate the content. Provide the alphanumeric string for the DOI exactly as published in the article. This is not a style issue but a retrieval issue. If no DOI has been assigned, provide the homepage URL of the journal, book, or report publisher.

ARTICLES AND BOOKS FROM LIBRARY ELECTRONIC DATABASES

Magazine


Journal


or


Newspaper

Reference Book Chapter


Electronic Book


ONLINE DOCUMENTS

Electronic Newspaper Article


Document Available on University Program or Department Site


Article from an Online Periodical

Magazine

Journal


- If the article appears as a printed version as well, the URL is not required. Use version type after the article’s title. See example below.


U.S. Government Agency Publication


Document with Author and Date


Document with No Author, No Date


- Begin with the title of the document if there is no author
- n.d. = no date

Email

- In APA style, email messages should not be included in the reference list because they are personal communications and cannot be retrieved by a third party. They should, however, be cited in text (see personal communications in References in Text).
Photographs


AUdiovisual media


Motion picture, Videotape, CD, or DVD


Radio or Television Program


Podcast


REFERENCES IN TEXT

References in the text of your paper briefly identify sources and enable readers to locate them in the reference list. Provide at least the author’s last name and the date of publication, enclosed in parentheses: (Smith, 2006). For direct quotations and some paraphrases, give a page number or paragraph number for non-paginated material as well: (Smith, 2006, p.9) or (Smith, 2006, para. 4).

Direct Quotation

Despite growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (Critser, 2003, p. 5).

OR

Critser (2003) noted that despite growing numbers of overweight Americans, many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5).

• Place the author’s name, the year, and the page number in parentheses after the quotation: (Critser, 2003, p. 5), OR introduce the quotation with the author’s last name followed by the year of publication in parentheses.
• Always give page numbers for direct quotations. Put the page number (preceded by “p.”) in parentheses after the quotation.

Summary or Paraphrase

According to Carmona (2004), the cost of treating obesity is exceeded only by the cost of treating illnesses from tobacco use (para. 9).

OR

The cost of treating obesity is exceeded only by the cost of treating illnesses from tobacco use (Carmona, 2004, para. 9).

• Include the author’s last name and the year either at the beginning of a summary or a paraphrase, OR in parentheses following it.
• A page number or another locator is not required for a summary or a paraphrase, but include one if it would help readers find the passage in a long work.
Two Authors

- Name both authors each time you cite the work. Link the authors’ names with “and” in the text and “&” in the parentheses.

  According to Sothern and Gordon (2003), “Environmental factors may contribute as much as 80% to the causes of childhood obesity” (p. 104).

  Obese children often engage in less physical activity (Sothern & Gordon, 2003, p. 104).

Personal communication (e-mail, interviews, letters, and telephone conversations, etc.)

  One of Atkinson’s colleagues has contended that advertisers for snack foods will need to design ads responsibly for their younger viewers (F. Johnson, personal communication, October 20, 2004).

  • Do not include personal communication in the reference list. In references in text, give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide as exact date as possible. Some forms of personal communication are recoverable, and these should be referenced as archival materials.

An Electronic Document

- When possible, cite an electronic document as you would any other document (using the author-date style).

  Atkinson (2001) found that children who spent at least four hours a day watching TV were less likely to engage in adequate physical activity during the week.

Electronic sources may lack authors’ names or dates. In addition, they may lack page numbers. Here are APA’s guidelines for handling sources without authors’ names, dates, or page numbers.

- If no author, mention the title of the document in a signal phrase or give the first word or two of the title in parentheses.

  The body’s basal metabolic rate, or BMR, is a measure of its at-rest energy requirement (“Exercise,” 2003).

- When the date is unknown, use the abbreviation “n.d.” (“no date”).

  Attempts to establish a definitive link between television programming and children’s eating habits have been problematic (Magnus, n.d.).

- When an electronic document lacks stable numbered pages, include information that will help readers locate the particular passage cited.
• If the document has numbered paragraphs, use the paragraph number preceded by the abbreviation “para.”: (Hall, 2001, para. 5).

• If neither a page nor a paragraph number is given and the document contains headings, cite the appropriate heading and indicate which paragraph under that heading you are referring to.

Hoppin and Taveras (2004) pointed out that several other medications were classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as having the “potential for abuse” (Weight-Loss Drugs section, para. 6).

• Electronic files using portable document format (PDF) often have stable page numbers. For such sources, give the page number in the parenthetical citation.