

What is APA?

APA stands for the **American Psychological Association**, an organization dedicated to serving science and psychology professionals. In this handout, we focus on the APA citation system, which uses parenthetical citations in text and a References page at the end of a paper. This guide has three major sections: **Formatting Quotes and Paraphrases**, **Parenthetical Citations**, and **References**. Each part explains the rules for how to format and cite in APA. If you have questions about one of these rules in particular, skip down to the section that is most relevant to your needs.

Formatting Quotes and Paraphrases

- ★ APA prefers the use of paraphrases to quotations. When paraphrasing, a page number is not necessary. However, if directly quoting from a source and a quotation is necessary, then a page number must be included. For direct quotations, there are two formats: **short** and **block quotations**.
- ★ **Short Quotations** are less than 40 words in length.
As stated by Lane (2018), “quote goes here” (p. 588).
- ★ **Block Quotations** are 40 words or more. To format this, list author’s name and year for context. Then, place the quote on a new line without quotation mark. The page number goes after the period, and the block quotation is also double spaced.
As stated by Lane (2018):
(indented ½ inch) Quote goes here. The entire quote is indented to show that it is all the same quote. When quoting, do not place quotation marks around the block quote, and place the period before the end parenthetical. (p. 588)
- ★ Try to introduce evidence in some way, using a running acknowledgement, signal phrase, or another means.¹
- ★ If you use a quote that begins a sentence, lowercase the first letter so it flows with your own writing.

Parenthetical Citations

I. Basic Information

- ★ Basic structure always includes: Author(s) Last Name(s), Year of Publication, and Page Number(s) (if applicable).
... (Lane, 2018, p. 588).
- ★ If a text does not have a date, cite the author’s name followed by “n.d.”
... (Fox, n.d.).
- ★ APA offers two means of providing source information in your text: **narrative** and **parenthetical** citations
 - **Narrative citations** name the author in the sentence (place the year in parentheses following the author)
 - **Parenthetical citations** name the author and year inside the parentheses at the end of the sentence
- ★ When using classical works such as the Greeks, Romans, or the *Bible*, a reference entry is not required. You must only identify the version and lines used in the text following the quote, paraphrase, or mention.
Song of Solomon 2:15 reads “take us...the little foxes, that spoil the vines” (*King James Version*, 1769/2017)
- ★ When using very old works where the date is not applicable, list the year of the translation you used.
Antoine de Saint-Exupery (trans. 2018) illustrated . . .

¹ A running acknowledgement or [signal phrase](#) names the author of the source outside of the parenthetical citation. In this case, the name(s) of the author(s) appears in the sentence, not inside the parentheses. APA refers to these as “narrative” citations.

How to Format Authors in Parenthetical Citations			
One Author		Two Authors²	
Narrative	Parenthetical	Narrative	Parenthetical
Author (Year) ...	... (Author, Year).	Author and Author (Year)...	... (Author & Author, Year).
Wagner (2017) ...	... (Wagner, 2017).	Dugatkin and Trut (2017)...	... (Dugatkin & Trut, 2017).
Three or More Authors Always use “et al.” after the first author’s last name. Do not list other authors beyond the first name.		No Author If there is no author listed for a source, cite the title and the year of publication. Italicize the title of a book. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article or chapter.	
Narrative	Parenthetical	Narrative	Parenthetical
Author et al. (Year) ...	... (Author et al., Year).	“Do Foxes Make Good Pets” (n.d.) states ...	... (“Do Foxes Make Good Pets,” n.d.).
Lord et al. (2020) ...	... (Lord et al., 2020).		
Group Author with Abbreviation If a group has a commonly used abbreviation or if the group will appear 3 or more times in the paper.		Anonymous Authors When a work is listed as Anonymous (such as in legal documents or some web sources), cite the word “Anonymous” at the beginning of the citation. ³	
Narrative First Citation	Parenthetical First Citation	Narrative	Parenthetical
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, 2020) state ...	... (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], 2020).	Anonymous (Year) Anonymous (2006)	(Anonymous, Year) (Anonymous, 2006)
Narrative Subsequent Citations	No Acknowledgement Subsequent Citations	Group Author without Abbreviation Corporations, associations, government agencies, or research groups	
According to the FWS (2020), ...	... (FWS, 2020).	Narrative	Parenthetical
		The Humane Society (n.d.) states ...	... (Humane Society, n.d.).

Reference List

I. Basic Information

- ★ Used to indicate where information presented in the essay can be retrieved.
- ★ Only include texts cited in the essay.
- ★ Listed alphabetically by author or title (whatever is first in the citation).
- ★ Reference list begins a new page, with “References” centered at top of page.
- ★ The first line of an entry is at the left margin, and subsequent lines are indented ½”. This is called a hanging indent, and it should look like this. ⁴
- ★ Citations should be double-spaced.

² **NOTE:** “and” is always used outside of parentheses. “&” is always used inside parentheses.

³ **NOTE:** Only use “Anonymous” if the source actually lists “Anonymous” as the author. If there is no author listed, see the next section.

⁴ A hanging indent can easily be achieved by first writing out your citations without any formatting. Then, highlight all your citations, and hit “Control+T” (Command+T on a Mac) on your keyboard. Word will automatically create a hanging indent for you. See [this video](#) for help!

How to Format Authors in a Reference List	
<p>One Author</p> <p>Last name, initial(s).</p> <p>Wagner, A.</p>	<p>Two Authors⁵</p> <p>Last name, initial(s), & Last name, initial(s).</p> <p>Dugatkin, L., & Trut, L.</p>
<p>3-20 authors</p> <p>Last name, initial(s), Last name, initial(s), & Last name, initial(s).</p> <p>Lord, K. A., Larson, G., Coppinger, R. P., & Karlsson, E. K.</p>	<p>21 or more authors</p> <p>List the first 19 authors' names, insert an ellipsis "... " (no &), and then add the last author's name.</p> <p>Kukekova, A. V., Johnson, J. L., Xiang, X., Feng, S., Liu, S., Rando, H. M., Kharlamova, A. V., Herbeck, Y., Serdyukova, N. A., Xiong, Z., Beklemischeva, V., Koepfli, K-P., Gulevich, R. G., Vlaimirova, A. V., Hekman, J. P., Perelman, P. L., Graphodatsky, A. S., O'Brien, S. J., Wang, X., ... Zhang, G.</p>
<p>Same Author, Multiple Citations</p> <p>Arrange references chronologically.</p> <p>Place the earlier date of publication first.</p> <p>Coker, J. (2017).</p> <p>Coker, J. (2018).</p>	<p>No Author</p> <p><i>Title.</i> (year). Press.</p> <p><i>The Chicago manual of style</i> (15th ed.). (2003). University of Chicago Press.</p>

Rules for Titles

★ Capitalization Guidelines

- Titles are capitalized differently in APA Reference pages versus their formatting in-text.
- For Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Books, and any other "main" titles, capitalize the first word of title and subtitle, and any proper nouns. All other words are lowercased.
- For Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, and any other "secondary" titles, capitalize all words except articles, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions.

★ Punctuation & Formatting

- Do not include quotations around titles of shorter works including poems, short stories, essays, articles, TV episodes, short films, etc.
- Italicize titles of longer works including journals, books, plays, TV series, films, etc.

II. Common Print Sources

Special Notes about Print Sources	
<p>Publisher Information</p> <p>For the publisher information, drop "Co.", "Inc.", or "Publishers", but retain "Books" or "Press."</p> <p>Indiana University Press stays the same, but the New York Times Co. would be shorted to The New York Times.</p>	<p>Page Numbers</p> <p>When you list the pages of the chapter or essay in parentheses after the book title, use "pp." before the numbers: (pp. 1-21). If only citing one page, then use the abbreviation "p.": (p. 35).</p>

⁵ Use reverse order (last names, first initials) with all authors' names, regardless of quantity. List names in the order specified by the source.

★ Books

Basic Citation

- Last name, initial(s). (year). *Title of book*. Publisher.

Dugatkin, L., & Trut, L. (2017). *How to tame a fox (and build a dog): Visionary scientists and a Siberian tale of jump-started evolution*. The University of Chicago Press.

Edition Other than the First

- Last name, initial(s). (Year). *Title* (# ed.). Press.

Marchello, E. (2012). *Human and animal interrelationships: From domestication to present* (2nd ed.). Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Article or Chapter in an Edited Book

- Last name, initial(s). (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. A. Editor & B. B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

Fijn, N. (2018). Dog ears and tails: Different relational ways of being with canines in Aboriginal Australia and Mongolia. In H. E. Swanson, M. E. Lien, & G. B. Ween (Eds.), *Domestication Gone Wild: Politics and Practices of Multispecies Relations* (pp. 72-93). Duke University Press.

★ Periodicals

Journal Articles

- Last name, initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Publication*, Volume(Issue), Pages.

Gogoleva, S. S., Volodin, I. A., Volodina, E. V., Kharlamova, A. V., & Trut, L. N. (2009). Kind granddaughters of angry grandmothers: The effect of domestication on vocalization in cross-bred silver foxes. *Behavioural Processes*, 81(3), 369-375.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2009.03.012>⁶

Newspaper

- Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*. Page number.

Gorman, J. (2019, December 10). Domesticated, but not pets. *The New York Times*. D1.

Magazine Articles

- Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month). Title of article. *Title of Magazine*. Volume(Issue), page number(s).

Byrne, R. W. (2005, February). Animal evolution: Foxy friends. *Current Biology*, 15(3), R86-R87.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2005.01.023>

III. Common Electronic Sources

SPECIAL NOTE	
Sources with DOIs	Sources without DOIs
<p>A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique alphanumeric string that identifies content and provide a persistent link to its location. When a DOI is used, no further retrieval information is needed to identify or locate the content.</p> <p>Use this format for the DOI in references: https://doi.org/xx.xxx/xx-xx.xx.x.xxx</p>	<p>If a source lacks a DOI number, you need to find a stable URL to list in its place. If you located your source through a database, you'll need to find a different URL for your citation, as those URLs are not considered stable.</p> <p>Use this format for a lack of DOI in references: https://www.someurl.com</p>

⁶ Templates should generally be the same for print vs. electronic sources – but, if necessary, add additional source information (URL) to track how you located it. For a journal article this includes adding the DOI even if you used a print version of the article.

★ Journal Article

With a DOI

- Last name, initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Publication, Volume(Issue), Page Numbers.*
<https://doi.org/xx.xxx/xxx-xx.xx.x.xxx>

Lord, K. A., Larson, G., Coppinger, R. P., & Karlsson, E. K. (2020). The history of farm foxes undermines the animal domestication syndrome. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 35(2)*, 125-136.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.10.011>

Without a DOI

- Last name, initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Publication, Volume(Issue), Page Numbers.*
<https://www.webaddress.com>⁷

Zeder, M. A. (2012). The domestication of animals. *Journal of Anthropological Research, 68(2)*, 161-190.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23264664>

★ Online Newspaper/Magazine Article

- Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article. *Title of publication.* <https://www.webaddress.com>⁸

Wagner, A. (2017, March 31). Why domesticated foxes are genetically fascinating (and terrible pets). *PBS.* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/domesticated-foxes-genetically-fascinating-terrible-pets>

★ Websites and Webpages⁹

Webpage on a website with author

- Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). *Page of site.* <http://www.webaddress.com>

Coker, J. (2017, January 5). *Do foxes bite?* <https://www.juniperfox.com/living-with-juniper/2017/1/5/do-foxes-bite>

Webpage on website with a group author

- Organization Name. (Year). *Page of site.* Retrieved from <http://www.webaddress.com>

The Humane Society of the United States. (n.d.). *What to do about foxes.* Retrieved November 4, 2020, from <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-foxes>

★ Online Video (YouTube)

- Username. (Year, Month Day). *Title of video* [Video]. Website. <http://www.webaddress.com>

Verge Science. (2018, September 11). *We met the world's first domesticated foxes* [Video]. YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dwjS_el-IQ

NOTE

To mention a website in general, do not create a reference list entry or in-text citation. Instead, include the name of the website in the text and provide the URL in parentheses.

We obtained information from Faithful Foxes to determine legality (<https://www.faithfulfoxes.com>).

⁷ Database names are not required, unless the database is the sole provider of that source, or offers it in limited circulation (i.e. *ERIC*).

⁸ When including a link, do not place a period after it. This is not a style issue, but a retrieval issue, as it results in a broken link.

⁹ Check whether your website content is “designed to change” or not (i.e. is the content *published* or subject to updates) – if it is, and you cannot find an “archived,” static version of the webpage, APA allows for the use of an “access date” formatted like this (before giving the URL): Retrieved Month Day, Year, from www.url.com

Sample Reference Page

References

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https://www.boredpanda.com/living-with-fox-juniper-jessika-coker/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic
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<https://doi.org/10.1080/09524622.2008.9753595>
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<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-018-0611-6>
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<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13420-018-0333-2>
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dwjS_eI-IQ
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<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/domesticated-foxes-genetically-fascinating-terrible-pets>
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<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23264664>