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 using 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.

¹ A running acknowledgment 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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Author</th>
<th>Two Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last name, initial(s).</td>
<td>Last name, initial(s)., &amp; Last name, initial(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagner, A.</td>
<td>Dugatkin, L., &amp; Trut, L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-20 authors</th>
<th>21 or more authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last name, initial(s)., Last name, initial(s)., &amp; Last name, initial(s).</td>
<td>List the first 19 authors’ names, insert an ellipsis “...” (no &amp;), and then add the last author’s name.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Same Author, Multiple Citations</th>
<th>No Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrange references chronologically. Place the earlier date of publication first.</td>
<td>Title. (year). Press.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher Information</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the publisher information, drop “Co.”, “Inc.”, or “Publishers”, but retain “Books” or “Press.”</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University Press stays the same, but the New York Times Co. would be shorted to The New York Times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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.

Edition Other than the First
- Last name, initial(s). (Year). Title (# ed.). Press.

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.

Periodicals

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

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

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

III. Common Electronic Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources with DOIs</th>
<th>Sources without DOIs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use this format for the DOI in references: <a href="https://doi.org/xx.xxx/xxx-xx.xx.x.xxx">https://doi.org/xx.xxx/xxx-xx.xx.x.xxx</a></td>
<td>Use this format for a lack of DOI in references: <a href="https://www.someurl.com">https://www.someurl.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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.xx/xxx-xx.xx.x.xxx
    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

★ Online Newspaper/Magazine Article
  • Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Title of publication. https://www.webaddress.com

★ Websites and Webpages
  Webpage on a website with author
  • Last name, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Page of site. http://www.webaddress.com
  Webpage on website with a group author

★ Online Video (YouTube)
  • Username. (Year, Month Day). Title of video [Video]. Website. http://www.webaddress.com

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).

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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

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


Coker, J. (2018). Here’s what it’s like to live with Juniper the world’s happiest fox. Bored Panda. 


Verge Science. (2018, September 11). We met the world’s first domesticated foxes [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dwj5_el-IQ
