APA Style

6th Edition

This handout provides a quick reference guide to the basic citation rules of the American Psychological Association.

For complete information, use the following resources from the APA:


References in the text of your paper  (See pp. 174–179 in the *Publication Manual* for complete details)

- You must cite the author and publication year of a source in the text of your paper. One or both of these elements may be in parentheses, depending on the situation.
- In all cases, whenever you cite something in-text, you must include the full citation in the reference list at the end of the paper.
- Whenever multiple elements are in the parentheses, separate them with commas. Any punctuation that the sentence requires goes outside the parentheses. Here are some examples of correct in-text citations for paraphrasing:
  - Kessler (2003) found that among epidemiological samples...
  - Early onset results in a more persistent severe course (Kessler, 2003).
  - In 2003, Kessler’s study of epidemiological samples showed that...
- If you cite a specific part of a source, with or without direct quotations, the citation requires the page number, with p. or pp. before the number. Example:
  - Rogers (1961) has identified genuineness and transparency as two important elements of a helping relationship (p. 37).
  - Through brain scans of live chimpanzees, researchers have found that, as with humans, “the language-controlling…” (Begley, 1998, p. 57).
- If you use a direct quotation, and the material is online or otherwise without pagination, first use the author and date format as you would with regular written sources. Then, use the paragraph number, if available, with the abbreviation para. If neither page nor paragraph numbers are available, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following the heading to direct the reader to the location of the material. If necessary, shorten the heading or leave it out. (See pages 171–172 of the *Publication Manual*). Examples:
  - Basu and Jones (2007) went so far as to suggest the need for “regulation in cyber space” (para. 4).
  - In their study, Verbunt, Pernot, and Smeets (2008) found that “the level of perceived disability … less by their physical condition” (Discussion section, para. 1).
  - “Empirical studies have found mixed results on the efficacy of labels … changing consumption behavior” (Golan, Kuchler, & Krissof, 2007, “Mandatory Labeling Has Targeted”).

In addition, these two websites may be helpful for further guidance:

UCO APA Style Library Guide: http://libguides.uco.edu/APA
Reference list at the end of the paper: (See pp. 193–224 in the Publication Manual for complete examples)

- The heading (centered, no italics/bold/underline) on the page of sources should be References.
- Double space the entire list, both between and within entries (this will not be done on this handout).
- Arrange entries alphabetically by the last name of the first author of each work. If no author is given, start with the first significant word in the title.
- In dates, include as much of the date as is provided – (year, month day) if possible, or (year, month), or (year)
- In titles of articles and books (but not journal titles), capitalize only the first word of the title, the first word of the subtitle, and proper names.
- Each entry starts at the left margin. If there is more than one line, each subsequent line should be indented one half inch (“hanging indent” in the Paragraph menu of Microsoft Word)
- You should include Digital Object Identifier (DOI) information, when provided, in the standard citation format for all electronic documents – articles, books, or websites.
  - A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to each article available electronically to identify its content and provide a persistent link to its location online, since URLs can change.
  - Use the DOI in whichever format it is provided with the article. Examples: doi:10.1108/03090560710821161 or http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2012.05.005

Books

Basic formats for a book citation:
Author, A. A. (date). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

Editor, A. A. (Ed.). (date). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

- Entire book, print version, one to seven authors

- Book chapter, print version

- Entry in an encyclopedia

- Government document

- Report from a private organization

- Conference proceedings

- Dissertation
Electronically-retrieved books:

- **Electronic book (available online)**

- **Electronic book (purchased)**

- **Entry in an online encyclopedia or dictionary**

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**Periodicals**

For more information about citing articles retrieved from electronic databases, see pp. 187–192 of the *Publication Manual*.

**Basic format for an article citation:**

- **Journal article with DOI, one to seven authors**

- **Journal article with DOI, more than seven authors** – include the first six authors, an ellipses, and the last author

- **Journal article in print, no DOI**

- **Journal article from a database or elsewhere online:**
  - Include the DOI if there is one:
  - If there is no DOI, include the homepage for the journal—even if you found the article in a database:

- **Magazine article, print**

- **Newspaper article, print**

- **Magazine or newspaper article, online**
• **Newsletter article, no author** – move the title into the author position

### Other Sources

#### Basic format for a nonperiodical web document:

#### Missing information? [How to cite something you found on a website in APA style: What to do when information is missing](http://blog.apastyle.org/files/missing-pieces---apa-style-reference-table-1.pdf)

- **Basic web page**

- **Document retrieved from a website, committee author, and no date** – italicize titles only if it is a standalone document or report

- **Online video or audio file** – for any unusual formats, include the medium in brackets following the title

- **Wikis** – give the retrieval date after the word “Retrieved” only if the content of the source is likely to change

- **Blog post**

#### APA title page example (not to scale) – See pp. 41–59 of the *Publication Manual* for sample papers formatted in APA style. Or view a sample, with notes, here:
[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090212013008_560.pdf](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090212013008_560.pdf)

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**Running head: EFFECTS OF FORMATTING RESEARCH PAPERS**

**Effects of Formatting Research Papers on the Brain**

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