APA Style In Brief

The information in this guide is based on the sixth edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* and is provided to help students prepare a reference list. APA style is used primarily in psychology, sociology, business, economics, nursing, social work and criminology.

The reference list must include all sources used in the research and preparation of the paper. The information must be correct and complete and should contain the author, year of publication, title and publishing data.

Put the reference list on a separate sheet at the end of the paper. Double-space the reference list and use a hanging indent for entries. Arrange entries in alphabetical order by author’s last name. Works without an author should be in alphabetical order by the first significant word in the title.

Note that words are not capitalized in titles except for the first letter of the first word and the proper nouns.

All materials cited in the text must appear in the reference list, and all sources in the reference list must be cited in the text.

Below are examples of the most common kinds of references needed for a reference list. For more examples of entries consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, REF BF76.7 .P83. For examples of citing electronic resources, visit [http://www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org).

**ARTICLES**

**General Form:**

- Include the DOI (digital object identifier) if one is assigned.
- If no DOI is assigned to the article, and you retrieved it online, include URL of the newspaper, journal, or magazine, not the URL of the database.
  - For more examples, see the separate document named: **APA Electronic Resources**
- If article is a print article, no DOI or URL are needed.

**Examples:**

**Journal article with DOI**


**Journal article with DOI, two to six authors**

- Note that this article has no issue number

**Journal article with DOI, more than seven authors**


- Use an ellipsis (…) after the sixth author and before the last author.

**Journal article without DOI (when DOI is not available)**


- If there is no DOI assigned and the reference was retrieved online, find the URL of the journal through a web search. Do not use the URL of the database.
- If a print article, no URL is needed.
- No retrieval date is needed.

**Magazine article**


**Online magazine article**


**Newspaper article, no author**


- The exact URL is helpful here because specific newsletter articles are difficult to locate from the government agency homepage.
• Alphabetize works with no author by the significant word in the title (in this case, “Six”).
• In text, use a short title (or the full title if it is short) enclosed in quotation marks for the parenthetical citation: (“Six Sites Meet,” 2006).

**Newspaper article**

• Precede page numbers for newspaper articles with p. or pp.
• If an article appears on discontinuous pages, give all page numbers, and separate the numbers with a comma (e.g., pp. B1, B3, B5-B7).

**Online Newspaper Article**

**BOOKS**
Also used for other nonperiodical items such as reports, brochures, and manuals.

**General Form:**
**For an entire book, use the following reference formats:**

Author, A.A. (Year). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.

• For location, include two-letter state name code, or include country name if a non-American city.

**Examples:**


**Edited book:**


**A chapter in an edited book:**


**Electronic book:**


Author, A.A. (Year). *Title of work*. doi: xxxxx


**Reference book:**


**Article or chapter in a reference work:**


**Entry in an online reference work, no author or editor:**


**Entry in an electronic reference book:**


INTERNET SOURCES

Online document - general form:

Examples:

Stand-alone document, no author identified, no date

Blog post


- In this example a screen name is used for the author name. The author has adopted a nickname, or screen name, to use when posting messages to this web log.

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

Video

Podcast

Music recording
Writer, A. (Copyright year). Title of song [Recorded by B. B. Artist if different from writer]. On Title of album [Medium of recording: CD, record, cassette, etc.] Location: Label. (Date of recording if different from song copyright date)

LEGAL AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Reference form for cases:
Name v. Name, Volume Source Page (Court Date).

- Abbreviate the published source (if any), court, and date as specified in the Bluebook.


Reference to a federal district court opinion

Reference to a statute

Form for testimony at federal hearings and for full hearings:
Title, xxx Cong. (date).

Patents

Multipage document created by private organization, no date

U.S. government report available on government agency Web site, no publication date indicated

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

In-text citations must be used when you quote an author directly or paraphrase an author’s ideas. A parenthetical citation is placed at the end of the sentence or paragraph being quoted or paraphrased. If you choose to state the author’s name in your sentence, the publication year in parenthesis should be included after the author’s name instead of a parenthetical citation.

Works by one author
(Kessler, 2003).
Kessler (2003) found that…
**Works with two authors**
(Kurtines & Szapocznik, 2003).
Kurtines and Szapocznik (2003) demonstrated that…

**Works with three to five authors**
*First citation*
(Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, & Joseph, 2007).
Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) stated that…

*In subsequent citations, you should only include the first author’s name.*
(Kinsangau et al., 2007)
Kinsangau et al. (2007) stated that…

**Works with six or more authors**
*Only cite the name of the first author followed by et al.*

(Gilbert et al., 2004)
Gilbert et al. (2004) argued…

**Works with no author**
(“College Bound Seniors,” 2008)
*College Bound Seniors* (2008) writes…

For further assistance, please ask at the Reference Desk.

2010
VARYING DEFINITIONS OF ONLINE COMMUNICATION

References


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Start the reference list on a new page, center the title "References," and alphabetize the entries. Do not underline or italicize the title. Double-space all entries. Every article mentioned in the paper should have an entry.

source: http://owl.english.purdue.edu