Citation Basics: APA Style

To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, create a reference list of sources of information cited and a series of references that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source. The American Psychological Association (APA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. This handout explains and provides examples of the most common types of citations. For more detailed explanations or for more unusual types of citations, please see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (6th Edition), call number REF BF 76.7.P83 2010, which is available at the Reference Desk, or ask a librarian.

APA Citation FAQ

- Caution: Citations provided by databases are not always correct. Verify for accuracy.
- Select PDF version of electronic resources to obtain page numbers.
- Give only the first city of publication; use the official two-letter United States Postal Service abbreviations for states.
- Each reference must end with a period unless the reference ends with a DOI or a URL.
- Only the first word of a title or subtitle and proper nouns are capitalized in book titles and magazine, journal, and newspaper article titles and subtitles. All major words are capitalized in journal titles.
- Use n.d. (no date) when there is no publication date.
- Italicize titles of books and journals.
- For legal sources, use Bluebook citations.

Reference List FAQ

- Arrange the completed reference list in one alphabetical list.
- Indent one-half inch (5 spaces) before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation.
- Each reference cited in your text must appear in the reference list, and each resource on the reference list must be cited in the text.
- Double space all lines within and between entries. Examples provided are single spaced to save space except in the sample reference list on the final page of this handout.

The boxes below show both specific information you will need for citing and an example for each type of source.

**Formats and Examples for Books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book: One Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Year). <strong>Title of book.</strong> City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
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<th>Book: Multiple Authors (must list up to seven authors)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last name of 1st author, Initial(s) of author &amp; Last name, Initials of 2nd author. (Year). <strong>Title of book.</strong> City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
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<th>Book: Editor</th>
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<td>Last name of editor, Initial(s) of editor. (Ed.). (Year). <strong>Title of book.</strong> City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
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<th>Book: Chapter or Article with Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last name of article chapter author, Initial(s) of author. (Year). Chapter title. In Book editor Initial(s) and Last name (Ed.), <strong>Title of book</strong> (edition, Vol. , pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
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<th>eBook</th>
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<td>Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Year). <strong>Title of book.</strong> [ebook type and version if available e.g. Kindle DX version]. Retrieved from URL or name of database.</td>
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<th>Government Publication: Chapter or Article with Organization Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of chapter or article. (Year). In Name of Government Agency, <strong>Title of publication</strong> (edition, pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Formats and Examples for Databases

#### Database: Journal Article
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year). Title of article. *Journal Title, Volume number* (Issue number), page(s). Digital Object Identifier (doi) if available. If no doi, use Retrieved from Title of database.


#### Database: Newspaper Article
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Year, month day). Title of article. *Newspaper Title*, pp. page numbers of article. Retrieved from Title of database.


#### Database: Report
Name of organization. (Year, month day). *Title of report*. Retrieved from Title of database.


### Formats and Examples for Web Sites

#### Web Site: Journal Article
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, Volume number* (Issue number), page(s). Digital Object Identifier (doi) if available. If no doi, use Retrieved from URL.


#### Web Site: Newspaper Article
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year, month day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*. Retrieved from URL


#### Web Site: No Author
*Title of site*. (Year, month day). Retrieved from URL


#### Web Site: Organization Author
Name of organization. (Year, month day). *Title of Site*. Retrieved from URL


#### Web Site: PDF/Report
Last names(s) of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year, month day). *Title of report* (report number if available). Retrieved from URL


#### Web Site: With Author/Editor
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s) /editor(s). (Year, month day). *Title of site*. Retrieved from URL

Dwyer, L. (2012, March 3). *We know how to end bullying in schools-so why don’t we do it?* Retrieved from http://www.safechild.org/new/2012/03/06/777/
Formats and Examples for Other Resources

### Image: Commercial
Last name of creator(s), Initial(s) of creator(s). (Year). *Title of image*. Retrieved from URL


### Interview
(Initial and last name of person interviewed, personal communication, Year, month day)

[Note: Parenthetically cite personal interview in text only; do not include on the reference list.]

(M. Sargent, personal communication, 2016 February 15).

### Movie: Video, DVD, Digital file
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Function of author). (Year). *Title of movie*. [Type of production]. Place of production: Studio.


### Movie Review: Online Journal
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year). Title of review [Review of the motion picture *Title of movie*, Date of movie]. *Title of Journal*, vol. (issue). Retrieved from URL or Title of database.


### Movie Review: Journal Database
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Year). Title of review [Review of the motion picture *Title of movie*, Date of movie]. *Title of Journal*, vol. (issue), page number. Retrieved from URL or Title of database.


### YouTube Broadcast
*Title of program*. (Year, month day). [Video]. Retrieved from URL


### TED Talk
Last name of speaker, Initial(s) of speaker. (Year, month day). Title of talk [Video]. Retrieved from URL


### Blog Post
Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s) or user name. (Year, month day). Title of the post [Web log post]. Retrieved from URL


### Additional Examples

**Lexis-Nexis Academic**

**Opposing Viewpoints in Context**

**ScienceDirect**

**Films on Demand**
In-text References
When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with an in-text reference. Create in-text references as follows:

For references with authors, the in-text reference depends on how many authors there are:

- **For 1-2 authors**, place the author’s last name(s), year of publication and the page number in parentheses after the quote or paraphrase: (Berger, 2000, p.34) or (Torre & Knable, 2005, p.121).

  [When you include the author’s name in your research paper sentence, you need not repeat the name in your in-text reference: (2000, p.34)]

- **For 3-5 authors**, cite all authors the first time referenced but include only surname of the first author plus et al. for any additional in-text references for the same source: (Manning, Trella, Lyons & DuToit, 2010, p.89) then (Manning et al., 2010, p.93)

- **For 6 or more authors**, cite the last name of the first author plus et al: (Carter et al., 2013, p.8).

For references with no authors, place a shortened version of the title, year of publication and the page number in parentheses after the quote or paraphrase: (Calcium, 2010)

[All major words are capitalized in titles used in parenthetical references. Use quotes around the title of an article and italicize the title of a book or website.]

For references with no page numbers, cite the entire work by not including a page number: (Mayo Clinic, 2012)

[Never use the page numbers of web pages you print out; different computers print web pages with different pagination.]

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<tr>
<th>SHORTENED FORM OF PAPER TITLE</th>
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