ASA Style

This handout is based on the 4th edition of the American Sociological Association’s Style Guide, but is not a comprehensive guide.

See also:


There are two important rules to keep in mind when utilizing ASA style:
1. Each entry on the References page should correspond to at least one parenthetical, or in-text, citation.
2. Parenthetical citations should be included for clarity and accuracy.

Parenthetical (In-text) Citations

ASA uses the author-date method of citation. The last name of the author and the date of publication are inserted in the text. When referencing or summarizing a source, provide the author and year. When quoting or summarizing a particular passage, include the specific page or paragraph number as well.

Work by one author

In one developmental study (Smith 1990), children learned...
OR
In the study by Smith (1990), school children...
OR
In 1990, Smith’s study of primary school children...

Works by multiple authors

When a work has two authors cite both names every time. Example: (Martin and Bailey 1988)
When a work has three authors cite all the author names the first time the reference occurs and then subsequently include only the first author followed by et al.

Masserton, Slonowski, and Slowinski (1989) state that...

Masserton et al. (1989) state that...

For four or more authors, cite only the name of the first author followed by et al. the first and every subsequent time.

Multiple works by same author

Sanchez (2018a)  
Sanchez (2018b)  
itemize the works by adding a lowercase letter to the date on both the reference page and in-text citation
Multiple works in same parenthetical citation

Several studies (Jones and Powell 1993; Peterson 1995; Smith 1990) state that...

Put authors in alphabetical or date order, be consistent throughout the manuscript.

Specific parts of a source

The painting was assumed to be by Fo, but analysis showed it to be a forgery (Murphy 1999:85)

There is no space between the colon and the page number.

References

Book

last name, first name and first name last name. pub date. title.
   pub location: publisher.
   New York, NY: Macmillan.

Chapter of a book

last name, first name. pub date. “chapter title.” page numbers book title

Journal/Magazine/Newspaper article

last name, first name. pub date. “article title.” journal title.
Paivia, Angela. 1975. “Perceptual Comparisons through the Mind’s Eye.” Memory & Cognition
   volume number (issue number):page numbers. doi
   3(2):635-47. doi:0.1037/0278-6133.27.2.125

If no doi is available (as in the case of webpages) format as follows:

last name, first name. pub date. “article title.” journal title
Paivia, Angela. 1975. “Perceptual Comparisons through the Mind’s Eye.” Memory & Cognition
   volume number(issue number). retrieval date (url).

Book review

last name, first name. pub date. title of book being reviewed author’s name
   journal title where review was found volume number(issue number): page numbers.

last name, first name. pub date. “review title.” title of book being reviewed author’s name
   pub location: publishing company. retrieval date (url).