APA Style

This handout is based on the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), but is not a comprehensive guide.

See also:


There are two important rules to keep in mind when utilizing APA 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

APA 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.
When a work has three to five 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...  <--------first time

Masserton et al. (1989) state that...  <--------every subsequent time

For six or more authors, cite only the name of the first author followed by et al. the first and every subsequent time.
Works by no identified author

The site seemed to indicate support for homeopathic drugs ("Medical Miracles," 2009).

Use quotation marks around the title of an article, chapter, or web page. Italicize the title of a periodical, book, brochure or report.

Multiple works in same parenthetical citation

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

Put authors in order they appear in reference list (alphabetically) with semicolons in between.

Specific parts of a source

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

If a source has no page numbers, cite a paragraph number.

References

Book

last name, first initial., & last name, first initial. (pub date). title. pub location: publisher.

eBook

last name, first initial. (pub date). title. permanent url.

Chapter of a book

last name, first initial. (pub date). chapter title. editor first initial last name, book title (chapter pages). pub location: pub location: publisher.

Entry in a reference work with no author

Entry in a reference work with author


Journal/Magazine article


Newspaper article


Book review


Data set


Television episode


Webpage