APA Format–6th Edition

OVERVIEW–The American Psychological Association (APA) style is widely accepted in the social sciences and other fields, such as education, business, and nursing. The APA citation format requires parenthetical citations within the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. Citations in the text provide brief information, usually the name of the author and the date of publication, which will lead the reader to the source of information in the reference page at the end of the paper.

NOTE: Although the examples in this guide are shown in single space, APA style requires double spacing throughout (e.g. text, references, etc.)

APA RULES FOR THE REFERENCE PAGE – The following sections show some of the more commonly used APA citation rules.

NOTE: All citations must be in the Hanging Indent Format with the first line flush to the left margin and all other lines indented.

Authors are listed by last name and initials only. List up to seven authors. For articles from eight or more authors list the first six authors, then a spaced ellipsis and the last author.

ONLINE SOURCES

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES PUBLISHED MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY

General Format


NOTE: Italicize the name of the journal and the volume number. Use the article’s DOI (Digital Object Identifier), the unique code given by the publisher to a specific article. Use the DOI information as it appears in the article. The examples below show the two versions – the numeric string or the alpha-numeric string.

Online Report with a Corporate Author


Online Report with No Author Identified and No Date


Web Sites in Parenthetical Citations: To cite an entire Web site (but not a specific document within the site), it is sufficient to give the URL of the site in the text. No entry in the reference list is needed. Example:

Kidpsych is an excellent website for young children (http://www.kidpsych.org).

PRINT RESOURCES - BOOKS, CHAPTERS IN BOOKS, ETC.

General Format

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

NOTE: The title of the book is italicized.


Corporate Author with an Edition and Published by the Corporate Author


Anonymous Author


Chapter in a Book

APA RULES FOR IN-TEXT CITATIONS - APA utilizes a system of brief referencing in the text of a paper, whether one is paraphrasing or providing a direct quotation from another author’s work. Citations in the text usually consist of the name of the author(s) and the year of publication. The page number is added when utilizing a direct quotation.

NOTE: The number of authors for any given work dictates the style:

One author – Always list; Two authors – Always list;

Three authors – List all the first time cited. Subsequent citations use the first author listed and et al.; Four authors - List all the first time used. Subsequent citations use the first author listed and et al.; Five authors - List all the first time used. Subsequent citations use the first author listed and et al.

Six or more authors – Never list all. The first author listed and et al. will be used throughout the paper.

Indirect Quotation with Parenthetical Citation

Libraries historically highly value intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality (LaRue, 2007).

Indirect Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative

LaRue (2007) identified intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality as two key values held historically by libraries.

Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation

Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness-genealogical rather than ecological" (Gould & Brown, 1991, p. 14).

Direct Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative

Gould and Brown (1991) explained that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness-genealogical rather than ecological" (p. 14).

Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation – Four authors in first citation

“Recognizing a teacher’s view of information literacy in an active learning environment may provide a basis for productive collaborative efforts” (Maybee, Doan, & Flierl, 2016, p. 709).

Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation – Four authors in subsequent citation

Maybee et al. (2016) further suggested that “librarians should be prepared to describe how using information is important to the active learning experience” (p. 710).

CITING SECONDARY SOURCES -- When citing in the text a work discussed in a secondary source, give both the primary and the secondary sources. In the example below, the study by Seidenberg and McClelland was mentioned in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller.

Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993) provided a glimpse into the world.
In the references page, you would cite the secondary source you read not the original study.