What is APA Style?

APA Style is the reference format used by the American Psychological Association. It is widely accepted in the social sciences, as well as in other fields like business, education, and nursing. This guide shows formats and examples for the most commonly used resources.

- For full details on citing PRINT sources, see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 2010. – REF 808.A639e
- For full details on citing ELECTRONIC sources, see the APA Style Guide to Electronic References, American Psychological Association, 2007. – REF 808 A639e

General Rules of APA Style

- Your paper and reference list (bibliography) should be double-spaced throughout
- Any entry that appears in your reference list must also be cited in the text of your paper
- Citations display with the first line flush against the left margin, any subsequent lines indented
- For an article, book or document title: only capitalize the first word in the title, the first word in the subtitle (if there is one), and any proper names/nouns
- For a periodical title: all important words should be capitalized
- Authors should be listed in the order in which they appear in the actual publication
- If no author or corporate author is given, put the title in the author position in your citation – alphabetize by the first significant word in the title

Note: Reference is made throughout this APA Guide to DOI. A digital object identifier (DOI) is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when the article is published and made available electronically. Here is an example: doi: 10.1086%2F430809 Use the DOI to retrieve an electronic item via this site: http://dx.doi.org/

CITATIONS by Item Type

Journal Article

Magazine Article

Newspaper Article
**Videos/DVDs**


**Journal- Abstract Only**


*Note: While it is preferable to use the entire article, an abstract may be cited.*

**Magazine Article with no DOI assigned, retrieved from online database**


*Note: Cite the full publication date (not merely the year).*

**Magazine Article with no DOI assigned, free from publisher website**


*Note: Many popular magazine articles available from publisher websites do not provide volume and/or issue numbers, or page numbers. The URL should link directly to the article. Cite the full publication date (not merely the year).*

**Newspaper Article, retrieved from a database**


*Note: Cite the full publication date. Insert p. or pp. before page numbers. Use the database name; do not include URL.*

**Newspaper Article, retrieved from the publisher website or newswire**


*Note: Cite the full publication date (not merely the year). Insert p. or pp. before the page numbers and include the date of retrieval since newspaper websites often change. Cite the URL for the article itself, not the newspaper home page.*
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Dissertation or Thesis, retrieved from a database


Note: Cite the database name. Do not include the URL. Do include the database accession number, if available.

Dissertation or Thesis, retrieved from university or individual website


Note: Cite the type of publication – degree and dissertation or thesis – and the name of the university.

Electronic (Digital) Sources

Note: URLs and DOIs should not be underlined. Do not place periods after a URL or DOI number. No retrieval date is necessary for content that is not likely to be changed or updated (e.g. a journal article or book, or anything else that appears in pdf format).

Journal Article with DOI assigned


Note: If an article has a DOI assigned, there is no need to cite the database name or URL. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular type.

Journal Article with no DOI assigned, from a database


Note: If you cannot find a DOI in your citation or article, cite it using the database name. Do not include the URL. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular type.

Journal Article with no DOI assigned, final version, open access or free from publisher


Note: Cite the URL for the article or document, not the e-journal home page. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular type.
Online Report


Entry in an Online Encyclopedia or Reference Book Database


Note: If author given, list that first. If no author given, begin with the entry title. Date of retrieval should be included because the most recent date for changes may not be available. URL should lead to encyclopedia home page, not directly to the entry cited.

ERIC Document


Conference Presentation


Note: If linking directly to the presentation, use ‘Retrieved from,’ but if linking to the page where the presentation can be downloaded, use ‘Available from.’

Document or Page on a website, author and update date given


Document or Page on a website, no update date given


Note: If there is no update date on the web page or site, enter n.d. (no date), and include the date you retrieved it.

Document or Page on a large government or university website, no author

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Mahoney Library, College of Saint Elizabeth - Morristown, NJ
http://www.cse.edu/academics/mahoney-library/

Entire Website

The PBS Frontline web site offers full video recordings of many of its more recent documentary reports (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/).

Note: Entire websites (as opposed to a specific document or page on a website) should not be cited in your reference list, but rather in the text of your paper.

Wiki


Note: Wiki pages or entries are collaborative and may not have a definitive author. In such cases use the page title in the author position. If no update date can be found, include date of retrieval.

Weblog (Blog) Post


Audio Podcast


Video Podcast


Video Weblog Post


Print Sources & Physical Media

Book


Book with Editor

APA Style Guide

Chapter in a Book


Signed Entry in Edited Multivolume Encyclopedia, revised


In-Text Citations

When referencing information from a particular source, APA requires that you include the name of the author and date of publication in the text of your paper.

- If you mention the author’s name(s) in a sentence, simply put the date in parentheses following the name.
- You may also put the author’s name and publication date in parentheses, following the sentence.
- If you use a direct quotation, enclose it in quotation marks. After the quotation, place in parentheses the page number where you found it, preceded by p.
- If there are six or more authors, include only the first author, followed by et al.
- If you have a long corporate author name, include the entire name in your first reference to it; abbreviate it in any subsequent references.
- If no author is given, use the publication title, if brief, or the first few words of a longer title.