Documenting Sources: APA Style

Sample Parenthetical References, APA Style

*APA citations include the author and year of publication. Add page numbers for direct quotations.*

If the author’s name and date are mentioned in your sentence, they need not be repeated in the reference. If you mention the author’s name in your sentence, give the date in parentheses immediately after the name.

In a 2009 study, Watson found that children are happier when raised by sensitive parents.

Watson (2009) found that children are happier…

**Work by one author:**

(Weiten, 2005)

**Work by two authors:**

(Fenton & McGlashan, 2007)

The ampersand [&] is used to connect authors' names in parenthetical references, but not in the text itself.

**Work by three to five authors:**

The first time the reference is used, cite all the authors. For subsequent citations, use et al. (Latin for “and others”).

(Cuesta, Peralta, & DeLeon, 2014) [first reference]

(Cuesta et al., 2014) [subsequent references]

**Work by six or more authors:**

(Kleerekoper et al., 2009) [first and subsequent references]

**Works by two or more authors with the same last name:**

(Eysenck & Eysenck, 2009)

**Two or more works by the same author in the same year:**

(Seligman, 2015a)

(Seligman, 2015b)
Two or more works in one citation:

(Cuesta et al., 2014; Fenton & McGlashan, 2015; Good, 2016)

Arrange multiple citations alphabetically; “C” comes before “F,” which comes before “G.”

Work by a group, organization, or government agency:

Use the complete name of the group each time it is cited except when the organization's abbreviation is well known. In that case, use the complete name the first time, and the abbreviation for subsequent references.

(American Psychological Association [APA], 2009) [first reference]

(APA, 2009) [subsequent references]

Work with no known author:

(“Brain Breakthrough”, 2011)

Cite the title, or the first few words of a long title. Italicize a book or periodical title, and use quotation marks for article titles.

Republished or translated work:

(Freud, 1905/1979)

If you cite a classic text or a translation, provide the date of original publication (if known), followed by the date of the edition you used. If no date is known, insert n.d. for “no date” after the comma where the date would normally appear.

The following two types of material are cited in the text but not in the references at the end of the paper:

Indirect source, in which you are citing the words or ideas of one author as quoted or paraphrased by another:

According to Freud (as cited in Weiten, 2016)

Identify the original source (Freud) in your text, but cite only the source you used (Weiten). List only the secondary source (Weiten) in your references at the end of the paper.

Personal communication:

Sources that cannot be retrieved by the reader, including interviews, lectures, unpublished letters, e-mail, and some electronic discussion sources, are cited in your text as a “personal communication,” but are not listed under References. Give the initials and surname of your source, and the exact date.

According to the elder, T. Daniels (personal communication, June 7, 2014)

Ability to visualize has been found to be related to both creativity and emotions (J. Waters, personal communication, June 3, 2015).
Sample Citations, APA Style

Format: Your complete reference citations will appear on a separate page at the end of your paper, entitled References. They should be ordered alphabetically by author's last name, or by the first meaningful word of the title (ignore A or The) if no author or editor is known. Two or more works by the same author are ordered by year of publication.

The first line of each entry is a hanging indent (if this is difficult with your word-processing program, paragraph indents are permitted). The list is usually double-spaced throughout, but in student papers can be single spaced in the interest of readability, as can long quotations and tables. Each main element (author's name, date, title) is followed by a period.

The examples below have been divided into five categories: (1) books, (2) periodical articles, (3) online electronic sources, (4) other non-print sources. Find the model which most nearly matches the book, article, or other source you are citing. If you cannot find a suitable model, consult the Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition (available in the Library or the Writing Centre) or the APA website at <http://www.apastyle.org/index.html>.

1. Books

Book by one author, and book in an edition other than the first:


The author's surname and initials are given.

The date of publication appears immediately after the author's name.

The title is in italics. Capital letters are used only for the first word of the title and subtitle and for proper names within the title. (Note, however, that major words of titles mentioned in the body of the paper [e.g. in the reference citation for a work with no author] would be capitalized.)

The city of publication is followed by province, state or country (use standard postal abbreviations) if the city is not well known or could be confused with another.

The publisher's name is spelled out, including words like Press or Books, but not Inc., Co., or Publishers.

Book by two or more authors:


All authors are listed, and all names are inverted.
Book by a group or organization:


If the same group wrote and published the book, *Author* is listed as publisher.

Government publication--book:


Cite under the ministry or agency responsible. However, a government publication with an individual author may be cited under his or her name.

Government publication--serial:


If no publisher is given for a government document, list as publisher *Information Canada* for a Federal Government document, *Queen’s Printer* for a provincial document, and *US Government Printing Office* for US government documents. At the end of the entry, provide the information (catalogue or item number) needed to retrieve the document.

Book with editor:


Note the standard postal abbreviation for the state (Connecticut).

An article or chapter in an edited book:


Book with no author or editor:


Book with corporate author:

Article in a reference book or encyclopedia (signed):


If the article is unsigned, give the title and then the date.

2. **Periodical Articles**

Article in a journal with continuous pagination throughout the volume (up to 6 authors):


The volume number is in italics. Use numerals only, without Vol. or p. Page numbers are given in full for both first and last page.

Article by more than six authors:


However, this article would be cited in the text as (MacMillan et al., 2007), since it has more than six authors.

Article in a journal with a corporate author:


Article in a journal or magazine with each issue paged separately:


The issue number appears in parentheses immediately after the volume number. Periodical titles are capitalized. Note that APA style gives the volume number for a magazine.

Article in a weekly or monthly magazine without volume numbers (signed and unsigned):


Review of a book in a journal:

Article in a newspaper (signed and unsigned):

Alphabetize by the first significant word of the title. In the text, cite by a shortened version of the title, in quotation marks ("Last desert elephant").

3. **Online Electronic Sources**

Electronic sources include articles from scholarly and popular periodicals; online books, magazines, papers or reports; web pages, online forums or other web-based formats. Basic information about the source (which often matches the format for print references) is followed by either the doi (digital object identifier) or the URL. The doi can usually be found on the first page on the top left or right of the document.

APA does not require the name of the database to be included in the reference.

3.1 **Journal articles with a DOI:**

3.2 **Journal articles without a DOI:**

3.3 **Online magazine article:**

3.4 **Online newspaper article:**
3.5 Abstract of an article without a DOI (in print or electronic format):


3.6 Abstract of a journal article with a DOI:

Doi;10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

3.7 Informally published documents from a web site:

If an author is identified, begin with the author’s name; if not, use the title. If no publication date is given, use n.d. (no date).


3.8 Online discussion forum conducted on Moodle:


3.9 Blog post:


3.10 Tweet:

Atwood, M. (2016, July 5). #Toronto full of rainbow-coloured people today, including the eye makeup! #PrideTO. [Twitter post]. Retrieved from https://twitter.com/MargaretAtwood/status/7496930024955166
4. Other Non-print Sources

4.1 Motion picture, episode from a television series, YouTube video, music recording, or audio and MP3 files:

Begin citations of audiovisual sources with the name of the main contributor, if known. Specify the medium in square brackets after the title.


4.2 Lecture Notes

The first example is used for notes taken while attending a lecture. The second example is for notes that can be retrieved.
