APA Citation Style

APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper. APA style requires two elements for citing outside sources: **Reference Citations in Text** and a **Reference List**. Together these elements identify and credit the sources consulted in the paper and allow others to access or retrieve this material.

The examples of APA styles and formats listed on this page include many of the most common types of sources used in academic research. For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the APA resources listed on page 7.

Reference Citations in Text

In APA style, citations to sources are placed in the text of the paper in order to briefly identify sources for readers and enable them to locate the source of the cited information in the Reference List. These parenthetical (in text) references include the **author's last name** and the **year of publication** enclosed in parentheses. Citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs so that it is clear what information is being quoted or paraphrased and whose information is being cited.

Examples:

Works by a Single Author

The last name of the author and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point.

```
In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000)
```

If the name of the author appears as part of the narrative, cite only the year of publication in parentheses.

```
Walker (2000) compared reaction times
```

Works by Multiple Authors

When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. In parenthetical material join the names with an ampersand [&].

```
as has been shown (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1989)
```

In the narrative text, join the names with the word "and."

```
as Nightlinger and Littlewood (1993) demonstrated
```

When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs.

```
Wasserstein, Zappulla, Rosen, Gerstman, and Rock (1994) found
```

In all subsequent citations per paragraph, include only the surname of the first author followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others") and the year of publication.

```
Wasserstein et al. (1994) found
```

Works by Associations, Corporations, Government Agencies, etc.

The names of groups that serve as authors (corporate authors) are usually written out each time they appear in a text reference.

```
(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1999)
```

When appropriate the names of some corporate authors are spelled out in the first reference and abbreviated in all subsequent citations. The general rule for abbreviating in this manner is to supply enough information in the text citation for a reader to locate its source in the Reference List without difficulty.

```
(NIMH, 1999)
```

Works with No Author

When a work has no author, use the first two or three words of the work's title (omitting any initial articles) as your text reference, capitalizing each word.

```
the book College Bound Seniors (1979)
```

Place the title in quotation marks if it refers to an article or chapter of a book, or italicize it if it refers to a book, periodical, brochure or report.

```
on free care ("Study Finds," 1982)
```

Reference List

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a Reference List or bibliography. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source.

- Entries should be arranged in alphabetical order by authors' last names. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title within the same list.
- Write out the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work.
- Capitalize only the first word of a title or subtitle, and any proper names that are a part of a title.
- Use an ampersand [&] instead of the word "and" when listing multiple authors of a single work.
- Use the abbreviation **p.** or **pp.** to designate page numbers of articles from periodicals that do not use volume numbers, especially newspapers. These abbreviations are also used to designate pages in encyclopedia articles and chapters from edited books.

- * **Indentation:** The first line of the entry is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines are indented (5 to 7 spaces) to form a "hanging indent."
- * **Underlining vs. Italics:** It is appropriate to use italics instead of underlining for titles of books and journals.

* The APA has special formatting standards for the use of indentation and italics in manuscripts or papers that will be typeset or submitted for official publication. For more detailed information on these publication standards, refer to the APA resources listed on page 7, or consult with your instructors or editors to determine their style preferences.

Examples:

Books
References to an entire book must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

No Author or Editor	*Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary* (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam Webster.
One Author	Baddeley, A. D. (1999). *Essentials of human memory.* Hove, England: Psychology Press.
Two Authors	Beck, C. A. J., & Sales, B. D. (2001). *Family mediation: Facts, myths, and future prospects*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Corporate Author, author as publisher	Australian Bureau of Statistics. (1991). *Estimated resident population by age and sex in statistical local areas, New South Wales, June 1990* (no. 3209.1). Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author.
Edited book	Gibbs, J. T., & Huang, L. N. (Eds.). (1991). *Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Essays or Chapters in Edited Books

References to an essay or chapter in an edited book must include the following elements: essay or chapter authors, date of publication, essay or chapter title, book editor(s), book title, essay or chapter page numbers, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

One author

```
Massaro, D. (1992). Broadening the domain of the fuzzy logical model
     of perception. In H. L. Pick Jr., P. van den Broek, & D. C.
     Knill (Eds.), Cognition: Conceptual and methodological issues
     (pp. 51-84). Washington, DC: American Psychological
     Association.
```

Two editors

```
Bjork, R. A. (1989). Retrieval inhibition as an adaptive mechanism
     in human memory. In H. L. Roediger III & F. I. M. Craik (Eds.),
     Varieties of memory & consciousness (pp. 309-330). Hillsdale,
     NJ: Erlbaum.
```

Encyclopedias or Dictionaries and Entries in an Encyclopedia

References for encyclopedias must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

Encyclopedia set or dictionary

```
Sadie, S. (Ed.). (1980). The new Grove dictionary of
     music and musicians (6th ed., Vols. 1-20).
     London: Macmillan.
```

Encyclopedia article

```
Bergman, P. G. (1993). Relativity. In The new
     encyclopedia Britannica (Vol. 26, pp. 501-
     508). Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica.
```

Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers

References to periodical articles must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, article title, journal title, volume number, issue number (if applicable), and page numbers.

Journal Article, one author

```
Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the
     relative pleasure of consequences.
     Psychological Bulletin, 126, 910-924.
```

Journal Article, two authors

```
Klimoski, R., & Palmer, S. (1993). The ADA
     and the hiring process in organizations.
     Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice
     and Research, 45(2), 10-36.
```

Journal Article, more than two authors

```
Saywitz, K. J., Mannarion, A. P., Berliner,
     L., & Cohen, J. A. (2000). Treatment for
     sexually abused children and adolescents.
     American Psychologist, 55, 1040-1049.
```

Magazine article

```
Kandel, E. R., & Squire, L. R. (2000,
     November 10). Neuroscience: Breaking down
     scientific barriers to the study of brain
     and mind. Science, 290, 1113-1120.
```

Newspaper article, no author	New drug appears to sharply cut risk of death from heart failure. (1993, July 15). *The Washington Post*, p. A12.
Newspaper article, one author, discontinuous pages	Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.

Technical and Research Reports

References to a report must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and name of publisher. If the issuing organization assigned a number (e.g., report number, contract number, or monograph number) to the report, give that number in parentheses immediately after the title. Additional information is included when a report is published by the Government Printing Office (GPO) or when it is available from a document deposit service such as NTIS or ERIC.

Government report	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1992). *Pressure ulcers in adults: Prediction and prevention* (AHCPR Publication No. 92-0047). Rockville, MD: Author.
Government report, GPO publisher	National Institute of Mental Health. (1990). *Clinical training in serious mental illness* (DHHS Publication No. ADM 90-1679). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
Report available from a document deposit service	Osgood, D. W., & Wilson, J. K. (1990). *Covariation of adolescent health problems*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska. (NTIS No. PB 91-154 377/AS)

Audio-Visual Media

References to audio-visual media must include the following elements: name and function of the primary contributors (e.g. producer, director), date, title, the medium in brackets, location or place of production, and name of the distributor. If the medium is indicated as part of a retrieval ID, brackets are not needed (see example for Audio Recording).

Videocassette	Garmon, L. (Producer and Director), & Apsell, P. (Executive Producer). (1994). *Secret of the wild child* [Videocassette]. Boston, MA: WGBH Educational Foundation.
Audio recording	Costa, P. T., Jr. (Speaker). (1988). *Personality, continuity, and changes of adult life* (Cassette Recording No. 207-433-88A-B). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Motion Picture	Scorsese, M. (Producer), & Lonergan, K. (Writer/Director). (2000). *You can count on me* [Motion Picture]. United States: Paramount Pictures.
Television broadcast	Crystal, L. (Executive Producer). (1993, October 11). *The MacNeil/Lehrer news hour* [Television broadcast]. New York and Washington, DC: Public Broadcasting Service.

Television Series	Miller, R. (Producer). (1989). *The mind* [Television series]. New York: WNET.
Music Recording	Shocked, M. (1992). Over the waterfall. On *Arkansas traveler* [CD]. New York: PolyGram Music.

Electronic Media and Online Sources

APA's recommendations for citing electronic media call for consistent observation of at least two important guidelines: 1) Direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited – whenever possible, reference specific documents rather than home or menu pages; 2) Provide addresses that work. At a minimum, a reference of an Internet source should provide a document or title description, a date (either the date of publication or update or date of retrieval), and an address (in Internet terms, a URL). Whenever possible, identify the authors of the document as well.

Listed below are examples of citation styles for several types of electronic resources.

Internet articles based on a print source (exists in print and online)	VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, *5*, 117-123.
Article in an Internet-only journal	Fredrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being. *Prevention & Treatment*, *3*, Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from http://journals.apa.org/ prevention/volume3/pre0030001a.html
Article from an online encyclopedia	Bergman, P. G. & Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica Online. (1994-1999). Relativity. *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Retrieved August 4, 1999 from Encyclopedia Britannica Online on the World Wide Web: http://search.eb.com/bol/topic?eu=117376&sc tn=1
Professional web site	American Psychological Association. (1999, June 1). Electronic reference formats recommended by the American Psychological Association. Retrieved July 18, 1999 from the World Wide Web: http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html
Document available on university program or department Web site	Chou, L., McClintock, R., Moretti, F., & Nix, D. H. (1993). *Technology and education: New wine in new bottles: Choosing pasts and imagining educational futures.* Retrieved August 24, 2000, from Columbia University, Institute for Learning Technologies Web site: http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/ publications/papers/newwine1.html

When citing an entire web site (and not a specific document on that site), no Reference List entry is required if the address for the site is cited in the text of your paper.

```
Witchcraft In Europe and America is a site that
presents the full text of many essential works
in the literature of witchcraft and
demonology(http://www.witchcraft.psmedia.com/).
```

For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the following APA resources:

- **American Psychological Association. (2001).** *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* **(5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.**

  CU Library Reference locations include:
  Uris and Hotel (BF76.7 .P83x 2001)
  Olin (BF76.7 .P83x 2001+)
  ILR (BF76.7 .A51 2001)
  Mann (BF76.7 .A51x 2001)

- **Electronic Reference Formats Recommended by the American Psychological Association**

  http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html

- **Frequently Asked Questions about the Publication Manual**

  http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html

CORNELL