APA Style Reference Pages

Academic writers build upon the work of other writers to express new ideas and develop new arguments. It is vital that you credit the writers you use, both because it recognizes their contributions and because it helps readers of your work continue their own research. Whenever you draw upon another’s work, be sure to cite it.

There are many different methods of citation in use in various academic communities. Papers written in American Psychological Association (APA) style always include a References page listing all sources used in the text.

General Format

APA style reference pages are double-spaced throughout and use “hanging indent” format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented. Generally, references follow the style of Author. (Year). Title of article or chapter. Title of work. City of publisher: Publisher name. Titles are in sentence case; only the first word of the title and subtitle (the material after the :) and any proper names are capitalized. If no author is given, regardless of the format, put the title in the author position.

Note: The following page references coincide with the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. A copy of the manual is available in the Center for Writing Excellence, Centennial 2104, and 2003 McIntyre.

Book by one author (p. 202-203)


Book by two to seven authors (for more than seven authors follow rule on p. 184)


Chapter in an Edited Book (p. 202)


Citation of a Work Discussed in a Secondary Source (p. 178)

Example of in-text citation: Glasser’s study (as cited in Ellis, 1999)...


Journal Article with Seven or Fewer Authors


In this example, "18" is the volume number, “3” is the issue number, and "5-18" are the page numbers.


*Always include the URL for open-access journals.*

**Journal Article with Eight or More Authors (pp. 198, 184, 175)**


**Newspaper Article (p. 200)**


**Magazine Article (p. 200)**


**Encyclopedia Article (pp. 204-205)**


**Government Document (p. 205-206)**


**Interviews and Personal Communications (pp. 179, 214)**

Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications such as telephone conversations, email messages, and personal interviews are not included in the Reference list. In the text, give initials, surname of the communicator, and provide as exact a date as possible: (N. Schwartz, personal communication, April 1, 2001).


**Miscellaneous online**


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