WELCOME TO
INTRODUCTION TO APA CITATIONS
For Books, Journals, & Websites

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GSU Library
Introduction to APA Citations

What is APA?
• APA style and APA citations refer to *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* 6th ed. The manual provides rules for the preparation of manuscripts and describes the mechanical aspects of writing. APA is an editorial style used by many social and behavioral sciences. Writers using APA might be professionals publishing a journal article or college students writing papers in various academic disciplines.

Why use APA?
• It allows readers to locate the sources a writer consulted in their work;
• It provides a consistent format for identifying sources and references;
• It gives a writer credibility, and protects the writer from plagiarizing.

When do you cite works in an APA paper?
• In-text citations are used within the body of the paper, using the author-date system.
• Reference list citations are listed on a page titled “References” at the end of a paper.
• These two type of citations correspond to each other. Each work cited in-text must appear in the reference list, and each entry in the reference list must be cited in-text.
Introduction to APA Citations

**Tip: identify the type of source or work you are citing.**

- There are many types of sources, for instance books, journal articles, web documents, films, newspaper articles, conference proceedings, etc.

- Citations (aka references) differ according to the type of work being cited.

- Knowing the type of source helps you locate examples in the APA Manual.

**Tip: identify elements of a citation.**

- Common elements of citations are author(s), editor(s), title of work, publication information, digital object identifier (DOI), retrieval information for electronic sources.

- Elements of a citation vary depending on the type of source, and some elements may not be available.
Editor, A. A. (Ed.). (date). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.


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


Author, A. A. (date). *Title of work*. doi:xxxxxxxx

Editor, A. A. (Ed.). (date). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.
In text examples, a book by one author

Lemish (2007) found that television shows influence children’s perceptions of other cultures.

It has been suggested that viewing television influences children’s perceptions of other cultures (Lemish, 2007).

Reference list example, a book by one author


Reference list example, an online book, no publication date, no DOI


Reference list example, a book with two editors, second edition

Introduction to APA Citations

Reference list examples when the author and publisher are the same


Citing two or more works by different authors

In text: list two or more works by different authors who are cited within parentheses in alphabetical order by the authors’ last names. Separate the citations with semicolons.

Studies reveal that violent media images have negative effects on children (Gentile, 2008; Kirsh, 2006).

Reference list: list each work separately.


BASIC REFERENCE LIST FORMAT
FOR AN AUTHORED CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK

Author, A. A. (date). Title of chapter. In A. A. Editor (Ed.), Title of book (pp. xxx-xxx). Location: Publisher.

In text examples, a chapter written by two authors

Bell and Wolf (2007) discuss the importance of studying both cognition and emotion in early development.

Research explains the value of investigating both cognition and emotion in early development (Bell & Wolf, 2007).

Reference list example, a chapter by two authors in a book with two editors

CITATIONS FOR WORKS WITH NO AUTHOR OR AN ANONYMOUS AUTHOR

In text citations:

- italicize titles of periodicals, books, brochures, or reports
- use double quotation marks around titles of articles, chapters, or web pages
- move the title or the word *anonymous* to the author position before the date of publication

Reference list citations:

- Use the first few words of the reference, usually the title, and the year in the author’s position
- Use the word *anonymous* and the year in the author’s position

**Note:** Use *anonymous* only if the work is actually credited with that word.
In text examples for works with no author

the book *College Bound Seniors* (2008)

(Anonymous, 1998)

Motivation is an important factor of cooperative learning (“Cooperative Learning,” n.d.).

Reference list example, web document, no author, no date

CITING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Journal articles can be accessed in different formats:

• From a print journal, from a library database, or from a website. Articles may be formatted as web documents (in HTML), or exact images of pages (in PDF).
• Articles published on the web may be accessed for a fee, with a subscription, or for free. Free Internet journals are often called open access journals, freely accessible journals, or e-journals.

The APA Manual provides the following guidelines for citing articles:

• Provide the DOI if available. (No other publisher or retrieval information is needed with a DOI).
• If you retrieved the article online but no DOI has been assigned, provide the homepage URL of the journal (page 199).
• If you accessed the article from a database, you may need to do a web search to find the homepage URL for the journal (pages 191-192).
• In general, it is not necessary to include database information (page 192).
• Do not include retrieval dates unless the source material may change over time (e.g., Wikis) (page 192). If you are unsure about including a retrieval date, consult with your professor.

For online articles without a DOI, ask your professors if they have a preference for citing as a print article, with the journal’s homepage URL, with the database name, or the URL to the article in an open access journal.
Introduction to APA Citations

BASIC REFERENCE LIST FORMAT
FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE


The APA Manual says to provide issue numbers when each issue begins with page 1; if issues use continuous pagination through the entire volume, give only the volume number. However, many writers provide issue numbers whenever available, so ask your professors about their preference for citing issue numbers.
In text examples, a direct quote with less than 40 words, from a journal article by two authors.

Roberts and Foehr (2008) state that young people “devote more time to media than to any other single activity with the exception of sleep” (p. 30).

It has been said that young people “devote more time to media than to any other single activity with the exception of sleep” (Roberts & Foehr, 2008, p. 30).

(See page 171 of the APA Manual for formatting block quotations with more than 40 words.)

Reference list example, a journal article by two authors, available on SocIndex database. Check the preference of your professor.

Citing it with the journal’s homepage URL


Citing it without journal’s homepage URL

Introduction to APA Citations

Reference list example, an article from a free online journal, no DOI.

Citing with the journal’s homepage URL


Citing with the article URL (check if this is your professor’s preference)

REFERENCE LIST CITATIONS FOR ONE WORK BY MULTIPLE AUTHORS

• Give surnames and initials for up to and including seven authors.

• With eight or more authors, include the first six authors’ names, then insert three ellipses, and add the last author’s name (page 184).

Reference list example, a journal article by seven authors.


Reference list example, a journal article by eight or more authors.

CITING WORKS FOUND IN SECONDARY SOURCES

The original source is a work you have not read, but it is cited in the secondary source you are reading. The APA Manual 6th edition recommends using this type of in-text citation sparingly, for instance when you cannot obtain the original source.

In text: cite the original source with the parenthetical phrase (as cited in ).

Reference list: cite the complete secondary source.

In text example. (You are referring to an original source you have not read – the Goldman and Goldman study – that was cited in a secondary source you read – the Linebarger article.)

Goldman and Goldman’s study (as cited in Linebarger, 2001) found that …

Reference list example. (Cite the complete secondary source, the Linebarger article.)

BASIC FORMAT FOR A WEB PAGE OR WEB DOCUMENT


CITING A WEB PAGE OR DOCUMENT

Chapter 6 recommends using the same elements, in the same order, as a fixed-media reference (p. 187). List as many elements as possible for the citation, you sometimes have to hunt around to find the information.

If a date is not available for the document use (n.d.) for no date.

If the source has no author, in the text use a parenthetical citation and put the first few words of the title in double quotation marks followed by the date.

Chapter 6 says retrieval dates are not needed unless the source material may change over time, for example, in Wikis. If you are unsure about including retrieval dates, consult with your professor.

When an Internet document is more than one web page, provide a URL that links to the home page or entry page for the document.

Do not use active URLs in your paper; they are usually blue and underlined. You can remove a hyperlink in Word by right clicking and selecting Remove Hyperlink.

Do not put a period after the URL.
**In text example, a web document with an author and a date**

Jaworski (1996) explains that classrooms are not isolated from cultural influences and societal norms.

**Reference list examples, web documents with an author and date**


In text example, a web document with no publication date

The ordering of instructional activities is very important (Kearsly, n.d.).

Reference list examples, web documents with no publication date


In text example, a web document with no author

Children develop skills in five main areas at different ages (“How a Child Develops,” 2008).

Reference list example, a web document with no author

Thank you for attending today.

Good luck on your papers!