

APA Citations

(Note: [Links in this tutorial will open in a new window.](#))

When you write a research paper using information that you got from outside sources, you must give credit to, or cite, those sources in your paper. This practice gives credit to the authors from whom you got your information, and it also gives your readers a path back to the sources you used in case they would like to read them. A citation is made up of information about the book, article, or web site that you used. Not citing the sources you used is considered [plagiarism](#) and a violation of the college's [Academic Honesty](#) policy.

In academic work, writers are expected to do their citations in a commonly known citation style. There are several different citation styles; the most commonly used styles are MLA from the Modern Language Association and APA from the American Psychological Association. Your instructor will tell you which style to use.

This tutorial describes the APA style.

APA Style

- The manual describing the details of the APA citation style is called the [*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*](#) (*Publication Manual*) the library has three copies of the manual and you can buy it at most book stores.
- The *Publication Manual* is the authoritative source for the details about APA style. You will find references to the *Publication Manual* throughout the tutorial (like Ex 3.95). This tutorial will cover some of the major points about **in text references** and the **reference list** and will give you links to additional information. Please consult the *Publication Manual* for any questions not addressed in this tutorial or speak with a librarian at the reference desk in the library.

Reference Citations in Text

- The first step in doing citations is keeping careful track of where you get your information as you do your research. Save copies of articles and web pages and write down or photocopy the information about the books that you used.
- In the body of your paper, you should indicate where you have incorporated another person's ideas or an exact quote from another author. You do this by inserting a reference citation in your text that points to the full citation in your **reference list**. You usually do this with the name of the author and a year: Example from Section 3.94 of the *Publication Manual*:

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

Or, if you use the author's name in the sentence, only put the year in parentheses:

Walker (2000) compared reaction times

- Readers would know to look for the author, Walker, in the reference list at the end of your paper to get the full information about this source.

Reference Citations in Text cont.

- When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in text. Ex 3.95:
As has been shown (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1989)
- When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all the authors the first time and later include only the last name of the first author followed by et al. Ex 3.95:
Wasserstein et al. (1994) found
- If your source does not have an author, just give a shortened title and the year. Book Ex: (*Report, 2001*)
Article Ex: ("*Study finds,*" 1999)
- If you have two authors with the same last name, include the author's initials:
R. D. Luce (1959) and P. A. Luce (1986) also found
- Please look at sections 3.94- 3.103 of the *Publication Manual* for more examples.

Reference List (Chapter 4)

- At the end of your research paper, you will provide a list of all the sources you used (articles, books, web pages, interviews, etc.) in correct APA format.
- Your citations should be listed in alphabetical order by the authors' last names or, if there is no author, by the first word of the title (but not by *A*, *An* or *The*). You should *not* number your citations.
- The format of the citation varies depending on the format of your source (book, article, web page, online article, interview, etc.). On the following pages, we'll give you examples of common formats. Please consult chapter 4 of the *Publication Manual* for more examples and details.

Basic APA Style Formats

A Book With One Author

Basic format:

Author, A. A. (Publication year). *Title of the book*. Place of publication: Publisher.

Example:

Beck, C. A. (2001). *Family mediation: Facts, myths, and future prospects*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

A Book With Two Or More Authors

Basic format:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B. & Author, C. C. (Publication year). *Title of the book*. Place of publication: Publisher.

Example:

Retschneider, J. G., & McCoy, N. L. (1968). *Social Learning*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

An Article in a Reference Book

Basic format:

Author, A. A. (Publication year). Title of article. In *Title of Reference Book*. (Volume, pages). Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example:

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

A Scholarly Journal Article

Basic format:

Author's name. (Publication year). Title of Article. *Journal Title, Issue number*: Page numbers.

Example:

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

A Magazine Article

Basic format:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year, Month Date). Title of Article. *Magazine Title, Issue number*, Page numbers.

Example:

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

An Online Journal Article

Basic format:

Author, A. A. (Publication year). Title of Article. *Journal Title, Issue number*, page numbers.
Retrieved Date, from X Database.

Example:

Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. *Journal of Applied Psychology, 78*, 443-449.
Retrieved October 23, 2003, from PsychARTICLES database.

APA Basic Information

Begin each entry flush with the left margin. If an entry requires more than one line, indent the subsequent lines by ½ inch (one tab space on computer) or five spaces (on typewriter) from the left margin. Double-space the entire list. This is done within each entry as well as between each entry.

For detailed information on documenting your research using the American Psychological Association (APA) style, please stop at the Library Reference Desk and ask for the **Publication manual of the American Psychological Association**. You can also go to the following websites:

American Psychological Association
<http://www.apa.org/>
<http://www.apastyle.org/>

Online Writing Lab at Purdue University
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

Reference List cont.

- On the following page, you'll find a properly formatted **reference** list with explanatory notes in red. The references are to the appropriate chapter in the *Publication Manual*
- Your reference list should start on a new page right after the last page of your paper.
- Continue the pagination and header of your paper through your works cited list – if you wrote 8 pages, the works cited list starts on page 9.
- Alphabetize your works cited list by the last name of the authors. Use only initials for first and middle names. If your source does not have an author, alphabetize by the title.
- Double space within and between your citations.

References

Corporate author
 Journal title in italics
 American Psychological Association. (1992). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. *American Psychologist*, 47, 1597-1611.

Bergmann, P. G. (1993). Relativity. In *The new encyclopedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp. 501-508). Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Brown, H., & Milstead, J. (1968). *Patterns in poetry: An introductory anthology*. Glevieview, IL: Scott, Foresman.
 Journal volume number – include the issue number if each issue starts with p. 1 – See 4.16 p. 240

Fournier, M., de Ridder, D., & Bensing, J. (1999). Optimism and adaptation to multiple sclerosis: What does optimism mean? *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 22, 303-326. Retrieved October 23, 2000, from PsycINFO database.
 The date you found the article
 Name of the database - See 4.16 p 279

Gibbs, J. T., & Huang, L. N. (Eds.) (1991). *Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth*. San Francisco: Josse
 Well known cities do not require a state or country- See list on p. 217

Hilts, P. J. (1999, February 16). In forecasting their emotions, most people flunk out. *New York Times*. Retrieved November 21, 2000, from <http://www.nytimes>
 Online newspaper article See 4.16 p. 279

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.
 Author of chapter
 Editors of the whole book

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.
 Source with no author – alphabetize by title

Other Sources of Help

- The Cerritos College librarians have created several guides to help with APA style:
 - [APA Style Guide](#)
 - [Citing Cerritos College Library Database Resources](#)
 - Make sure you are looking at the APA examples
- [NoodleBib Express](#) is a citation builder that will help you format your citations. You must still understand the pieces of the citation, but it will help you with formatting and punctuation.
- Many other colleges and universities have guides to help with APA style. Here are a few we recommend:
 - [The OWL at Purdue](#) – extensive information and examples for APA Style format
 - [APA Citation Style at Long Island University](#) – color coded to help you identify the different parts of a citation
 - [American Psychological Association](#) web page – you'll find a little help with APA style
 - [Sample paper in proper APA Format](#) from Diana Hacker

Please come see the librarians at the reference desk in the library if you need help!