APA Format—5th Edition

OVERVIEW—The American Psychological Association (APA) style is widely accepted in the social sciences and other fields, such as education, business, and nursing. The APA citation format requires parenthetical citations within the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. Citations in the text provide brief information, usually the name of the author and the date of publication, to lead the reader to the source of information in the reference list at the end of the paper.

NOTE: Although the examples in this guide are shown in single space, APA style requires double spacing throughout (e.g. text, references, etc.)

APA RULES FOR THE REFERENCES LIST—The following sections show some of the more commonly used APA citation rules.

NOTE: All citations must be in the hanging indent format with the first line flush to the left margin and all other lines indented. Single spaces are placed after all punctuation (periods, commas, etc.) in the text and in the reference citations.

JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS IN PRINT FORMAT

General Form


NOTE: The journal title and the volume number are in italics. The issue number in parenthesis is in regular type.

One Author


Two to Six Authors [List all authors]


More than Six Authors [List the first six authors, then use et al.]

Magazine Article


Newspaper Article with No Author and Discontinuous Pages


BOOKS, REPORTS, ETC. IN PRINT FORMAT

General Form

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

One Author


Corporate Author with an Edition and Published by the Corporate Author


Anonymous Author


Chapter in a Book


ERIC Document

ONLINE JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS

General Format - Databases


Article Retrieved from an Online Database

NOTE: Use the article's DOI (Digital Object Identifier), the unique code given by the publisher to a specific article, instead of listing the URL web address.


NOTE: If you cannot find a DOI in your citation or in the article, you may cite using the database name.


Article from E-journal website

NOTE: The full URL (or web address) is given with e-journal websites (not from databases). There is no period at the end of a URL. Break a long URL before punctuation. Right Click on the URL and remove the hyperlink to eliminate the blue type and underline.


OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

General Form

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of work. Retrieved from web address

Online Report

**REFERENCE CITATIONS IN TEXT**—APA utilizes a system of brief referencing in the text of a paper, whether one is paraphrasing or providing a direct quotation from another author's work. Citations in the text usually consist of the name of the author(s) and the year of publication. The page number is added when utilizing a direct quotation.

**Indirect Quotation with Parenthetical Citation**

As metaphors for the workings of nature, Darwin used the tangled bank, the tree of life, and the face of nature (Gould, 1989).

**Indirect Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative**

Gould (1989) attributes Darwin's success to his gift for making the appropriate metaphor.

**Direct Quotations — Always provide the author, year and specific page of the quote.**

**Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation**

Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (Gould & Brown, 1989, p. 14).

**Direct Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative**

Gould and Brown (1989) explain that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (p. 14).

**CITING SECONDARY SOURCES** -- When citing in the text a work discussed in a secondary source, give both the primary and the secondary sources. In the example below, the study by Seidenberg and McClelland was mentioned in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller.

Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (1989, as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993)

In the reference list, you would cite the secondary source you read, not the original study.