

APA Citations

American Psychological Association (APA) Format requires writers to cite their sources in-text and in a reference list at the end of their document. Although the focus of this handout is on creating reference list entries, we will first briefly discuss in-text citations.

Citing In-Text

In-text citations almost universally utilize the same last name-and-year format, regardless of the type of source being cited.

There are two ways to cite in-text: you can use a parenthetical citation, placing attribution information fully in parentheses, or you can cite in the narrative by mentioning the author's last name in your sentence and putting the year of publication in parentheses.

Parenthetical	In Narrative
It is important to remember that correlation does not necessarily equal causation (James, 2012).	As explained by James (2012), it is important to remember that correlation does not necessarily equal causation.

These are just the very basics. For more information, please consult one of the resources at the end of the handout.

Reference List Basics

- Organize references alphabetically by the first author's last name, or by the first word of the title if the work has no author.
- Italicize main titles, like the titles of *journals* (but not the articles published *in* journals), books, magazines, and web page titles.
- Capitalize the first letter of the first word in the title and subtitle of a work, as well as proper nouns; write all other words lowercase (the titles of journals should be capitalized as published)
- Use initials for authors' first and middle names
- Within entries, list authors in the order shown on the source, *not* alphabetically.
- If citing a work with seven or fewer authors, list all authors in the reference entry. If the work has eight or more authors, list the first six authors, then use an ellipsis (. . .) and list the final author.
- Double-space citations, with a hanging indent on all subsequent lines. (To save space, examples are not double-spaced on this handout.)



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- If available, provide a Document Object Identifier (DOI) number, which helps readers find your sources electronically.
 - If no DOI exists, and you have obtained a journal article via a library database, add “Retrieved from” and the name of the database at the end of the citation (e.g., “Retrieved from PsycINFO.”)

Reference Entry Format and Examples

This handout only has general information. There are many other guidelines that one should follow. The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.* has various examples of citation formats suited to different categories of sources. When in doubt, consult the manual as a guide, and find the citation format that most closely matches the type of source you are using.

BOOK - ONE AUTHOR	
Last name, First initial. (Year). <i>Title of book: Subtitle of book.</i> Location: Publisher.	Rowling, J. K. (2000). <i>Harry Potter and the goblet of fire.</i> New York, NY: Scholastic Press.
BOOK - MULTIPLE AUTHORS	
Last name, First initial., Last name, First initial., & Last name, First initial. (Year). <i>Title of book: Subtitle of book.</i> Location: Publisher.	Steward, J., Redlin, L., & Watson, S. (2016). <i>Algebra and Trigonometry</i> (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
BOOK - EDITED	
Last name, First initial. (Ed.) (Year). <i>Title of book: Subtitle of book.</i> Location: Publisher.	Duncan, G. J., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (Eds.). (1997). <i>Consequences of growing up poor.</i> New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
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ARTICLE – SCHOLARLY JOURNAL (print or from database)	
Last name, First initial. (Year). Title of journal article: Subtitle of journal article. <i>Journal Title as it Appears</i> , volume number(issue number), page numbers. doi	Dyson, R., & Renk, K. (2006). Freshmen adaptation to university life: Depressive symptoms, stress, and coping. <i>Journal of Clinical Psychology</i> , 62, 1231-1244. doi:10.1002/jclp.20295
WEB PAGE	
*This is a general format for web pages, but others may work better for a given source	
Last name, First initial., & Last name, First initial. (Date of Publication). <i>Title of document</i> . Retrieved from http://web address	Angeli, E., Wagner, J., Lawrick, E., Moore, K., Anderson, M., Soderland, L., & Brizee, A. (2010, May 5). <i>General format</i> . Retrieved from http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
GOVERNMENT REPORT	
Name of Government Agency. (Year). <i>Title of report: Subtitle of report</i> (Publication Number). Retrieved from http://web address.	San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District. (2018). <i>Measure RR bond oversight committee annual report: June 2018</i> . Retrieved from http://www.bart.gov/sites/default/files/docs/BART_Measure_RR_AReport_6_27_18_WEB.pdf



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Resources for APA Citations

As already mentioned, this handout only offers general guidance. It is very likely you will need additional information to complete your citations properly. Here are some resources where you can get further details about APA Format:

- *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (available in the library or for purchase online)
- Reference librarians (at the reference desk in the library and by phone during posted hours, as well as 24/7 via the reference chat on the library's website)
- The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <https://owl.purdue.edu/>
- The APA Style website at www.apastyle.org, and especially the blog section of the site at <http://blog.apastyle.org>
- Other SCAA handouts

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References - The following works were used during the creation of this handout:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>

<http://libguides.csuchico.edu/c.php?g=414152&p=2822581>

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition



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