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## APA Citation Style

*The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, second printing, is located in the Reference section of the Library and in the stacks (AC1.P83 2010). APA format is used in the social sciences, including in education, adventure education, and counseling psychology. Check with your professor if you're not sure which style format to use for a particular class. APA format uses author-date, in-text citations, meaning the author's last name and the year of publication for the source appear in parentheses in the text, and a complete citation is given on the reference list.

This handout is intended to be a brief overview of APA style. APA has very specific rules about punctuation, grammar, organization, and other aspects of writing. **Please refer to the manual for details not covered here!** Another helpful website for examples of APA citing and style is the OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue.

### Documenting Sources in the Text

The information you provide in the text will lead your reader to the full citation on the "References" page. All of your in-text citations provide the same information, whether you're citing a journal, article, book, or web site. **For more information, see Chapter 6, pages 169-179.**

#### Basic in-text citation examples:

- Kessler (2003) found that among...
- In 2003, Kessler's study showed that...
- As Kurtines and Szapocznik (2003) demonstrated...
- As has been shown (Joreskog & Sorborn, 2007)...

**Two authors:** Always cite both names.

**Three to five authors:** List all authors in the first reference, but in subsequent references list only the first author followed by et al. and the year. **Examples:**

- *First time:* Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) found...
- *Subsequent references:* Kisangau et al. (2007) found...

**Six or more authors:** Cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al.

**Organization as author:** Spell out the full name the first time; you may abbreviate the name of the organization in subsequent citations as long as it is recognizable. **Example:** (National Institute of Mental Health, 1999).

**No author:** Use the first few words of the title, plus the year. Use quotation marks around article title, chapter, or web page; italicize the title of a book, periodical, brochure, or report. When an author is actually designated as "Anonymous," cite in text as (Anonymous, 1998).

**Works by the same author, same publication date:** Use suffixes a, b, c, etc. **Example:** Several studies (Derryberry & Reed, 2005a, 2005b, in press-a; Rothbert, 2003a, 2003b)...

**Unknown author and unknown date:** If no author or date is given, use the title in your text, or the first word or two of the title in the parentheses and use the abbreviation “n.d.” (for “no date”).

**Example:** Another study of students and research decisions discovered that students succeeded with tutoring (“Tutoring and APA,” n.d.).

### **Personal Communications, Twitter, Facebook, Entire Web Sites**

For interviews, letters, e-mails, and other person-to-person communication, cite the communicator’s name, the fact that it was a personal communication, and the date of the communication. Do not include personal communications in the Reference List. **Examples:**

- T. K. Lutes (personal communication, April 18, 2011)
- (V.-G. Nguyen, personal communication, September 28, 1998)

When discussing a Twitter or Facebook feed in general, give the site URL in-text; do not include it in your Reference List. **Example:** President Obama uses Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/barackobama>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/barackobama>) to keep citizens up to speed on . . .

When referring to a web site, in general, give the URL in text. **Example:** Kidpsych is a wonderful, interactive website for children (<http://www.kidpsych.org>).

**Citing Indirect (Secondary) Sources.** If you use a source that was cited in another source, name the original source in the text, list the secondary source in your reference list, and include the secondary source in the parentheses. **Example:** Allport’s diary (as cited in Nicholson, 2003).

**Long Quotations:** If longer than 40 words, omit quotation marks and start the quotation on a new line, indented five spaces from the left margin. Double space. The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

- **Example:** Jones’s (1998) study found the following:  
Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)

**NOTE:** Use “&” between author names in parentheses!

**NOTE:** If you are directly quoting a source or referring to a specific part of a source, include the page number, or specific chapter. **Examples:**

- (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005, p. 10).
- (Shimamura, 1989, Chapter 3).

### **The Reference List**

The Reference List includes all (and only) the sources cited in your paper, and provides the information necessary for a reader to locate your sources.

### **General Rules**

**See Chapter 6, p. 180-187 for details, and Chapter 7 for more examples.**

**Author's names** are listed last name first, in alphabetical order; if there is no author, alphabetize by title of the book or article, excluding "A," "An," and "The."

**Multiple Works by One Author:** Arrange by year of publication, earliest year first.

**Indent the 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent lines** of the citation 0.5" (this is called a "hanging indent").

Capitalize only the first letter of the first word of a title and subtitle of book, articles, or web pages; the first word after a colon or dash in the title; and all proper nouns in a title.

**Capitalize all major words in journal title** (*not* conjunctions, articles, and short prepositions of four letters or less. For example, *and, the, of, but*).

**Italicize titles of journals and books.**

**Interviews & Personal Communications** should be cited in the paper but not listed in "References."

**Always include the volume number of a journal, magazine, or newspaper** (if available). If each issue of a journal begins on p. 1, also include the issue number (in parentheses). If there is no volume number, include the month, season, or other designation, plus year.

#### **Additional Rules for ELECTRONIC Sources**

*See Chapter 6, pp. 187-192, for details and Chapter 7 for more examples.*

**Include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a print source.** For books, replace the print publication information with the electric retrieval information. For journals, add additional electronic retrieval information as needed so your reader can locate your sources.

**Do NOT provide a retrieval date**, unless the information is likely to be updated or changed (as in the case of blogs and wikis); most online journal articles or books will not need retrieval dates.

Do *not* include the name of or URL from a subscription journal database or vendor (EBSCOhost, ProQuest, etc.) in the reference list.

Use the public, homepage URL for full-text works and periodicals available by subscription, and for online dictionaries and encyclopedias. **Example:** Retrieved from <http://www.esajournals.org/loi/ecol>

#### **Examples of PRINT Materials**

##### **Journal article, one author**

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

##### **Book, one author**

Parke, R. D. (1981). *Fathers*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

**Book with editors**

Gibbs, J. T., & Huang, L. N. (Eds.). (1991). *Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

**Chapter in an edited book**

Haybron, D. M. (2008). Philosophy and science of subjective well-being. In M. Eid & R. J. Laresen (Eds.), *The science of subjective well-being* (pp. 17-43). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

**Newspaper article**

Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.

**Report from a private organization**

Employee Benefit Research Institute. (1992, February). *Sources of health insurance and characteristics of the uninsured* (Issue Brief No. 1243). Washington, DC: Author.

**Proceedings of Meetings and Symposia**

Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (1991). A motivational approach to self: Integration in personality. In R. Dienstbier (Ed.), *Nebraska Symposium on Motivation: Vol. 38. Perspectives on motivation* (pp. 237-288). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

**Unpublished paper presented at a meeting**

Lanktree, C., & Briere, J. (1991, January). *Early data on the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C)*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, San Diego, CA.

**Examples of ELECTRONIC Materials****Article without DOI**

Sillick, T. J., & Schutte, N. S. (2006). Emotional intelligence and self-esteem mediate between perceived early parental love and adult happiness. *E-Journal of Applied Psychology*, 2(2), 38-48. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap>

**Article with DOI**

Herbst-Damm, K. L., & Kulik, J. A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology*, 24, 225-229. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.1.225

**Abstract from a journal database**

Lassen, S. R., Steele, M. M., & Sailor, W. (2006). The relationship of school-wide positive behavior support to academic achievement in an urban middle school. *Psychology in the Schools*, 43, 701-712. Abstract retrieved from <http://www.interscience.wiley.com>

**Online magazine article**

Keating, J. (2013, December 5). Do older countries care more about the environment? *Slate*. Retrieved from [http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_world\\_/2013/12/05/do\\_older\\_countries\\_care\\_more\\_about\\_the\\_environment\\_nbsp.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_world_/2013/12/05/do_older_countries_care_more_about_the_environment_nbsp.html)

**Article on web site**

Dostoevsky, D. P. (n.d.). *History*. Retrieved from the Pavlov Institute of Physiology of the Russian Academy of Sciences website: [http://www.infran.ru/history\\_eng.htm](http://www.infran.ru/history_eng.htm)

**Newspaper article**

Brody, J. E. (2007, December 11). Mental reserves keep brain agile. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

**E-book (entire book)**

Berger, W. (2009). *Ocean: Reflections on a century of exploration*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Retrieved from <http://site.ebrary.com/>

**E-book (chapter)**

Mitchell, H. W. (1913). Alcoholism and the alcoholic psychoses. In W. A. White & S. E. Jelliffe (Eds.), *The modern treatment of nervous and mental diseases* (Vol. 1, pp. 287-330). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psychbooks/>

**Dissertation/thesis retrieved from a database**

McNeil, D. S. (2006). *Meaning through narrative: A personal narrative discussing growing up with an alcoholic mother* (Master's thesis). Available from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Database. (UMI No. 1434728)

**Online dictionary definition**

Heuristic. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's online dictionary* (11th ed.). Retrieved from <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/heuristic>

**Online encyclopedia**

Graham, G. (2005). Behaviorism. In E. N. Zalta (Ed.), *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy* (Fall 2007 ed.). Retrieved from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/behaviorism/>

**Technical or research report**

Kutner, M., Greenberg, E., Jin, Y., & Paulsen, C. (2006). *The health literacy of America's adults: Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy* (Report No. 2006-483). Retrieved from the National Center for Educational Statistics website: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006483.pdf>

**Blog post**

MiddleKid. (2007, January 22). Re: The unfortunate prerequisites and consequences of partitioning your mind [Blog post]. Retrieved from [http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2007/01/the\\_unfortunate\\_prerequisites.php](http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2007/01/the_unfortunate_prerequisites.php)

**Podcast**

Van Nuys, D. (Producer). (2007, December 19). Shrink rap radio [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://www.shrikrapradio.com>