APA Quick Guide

- APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper.
- APA style requires both in-text citations and a reference list.
- For every in-text citation there should be a full citation in the reference list and vice versa.
- The examples of APA styles and formats listed on this page include many of the most common types of sources used in academic research. In APA style, in-text citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs so that it is clear what information is being quoted or paraphrased and whose information is being cited.

In Text Citation Examples

Works by a single author

The last name of the author and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point.

- from theory on bounded rationality (Simon, 1945)

Works by multiple authors

When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. In parenthetical material join the names with an ampersand (&).

- as has been shown (Leiter & Maslach, 1998)

Works by associations, corporations, government agencies, etc.

The names of groups that serve as authors (corporate authors) are usually written out each time they appear in a text reference.

- (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2007)

Specific parts of a source

To cite a specific part of a source (always necessary for quotations), include the page, chapter, etc. (with appropriate abbreviations) in the in-text citation.

- (Stigter & Das, 1981, p. 96)
Reference Page Examples

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a Reference List or bibliography. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source.

Journal article, one author, accessed online


Journal article, more than two authors, accessed online


Article from an Internet-only journal


Journal article from a subscription database (no DOI)


Book, One author, in print


Encyclopedia set or dictionary

**Article from an online encyclopedia**


**Government report, accessed online**


**Videocassette/DVD**


**Motion picture**


**Professional Web site**


**Entire Web site**

When citing an entire Web site (and not a specific document on that site), no Reference List entry is required if the address for the site is cited in the text of your paper.

Witchcraft In Europe and America is a site that presents the full text of many essential works in the literature of witchcraft and demonology (http://www.witchcraft.psmedia.com/).

Please consult the APA Manual of Style or the Purdue Owl website for clarification; this is a guide, not the gospel.